

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Hubbub
Roger Boyes on the threat of new unrest in Poland over food price increases next month



A DRUM! A DRUM!
MACBETH DOH COME

Bubble
The battle to publish Shakespeare in comic-strip form: three of his plays are now in print

Toil...
Who does the actual conveyancing work in a solicitor's office - and is the house-buyer subsidizing the litigant?

...and trouble
Sean Connery talks about his new Bond film, *Never Say Never Again*

Banking ombudsman likely

A banking ombudsman to deal with customer's grievances is likely to be appointed in response to the report on banking services published by the National Consumer Council. Although the council found that customers were generally satisfied, it recommends improvement in some areas, including opening hours and bank charges.

Wife murderer jailed for life

Peter Reyn-Bard, who admitted killing his wife, Malika, more than 20 years ago, was sentenced to life imprisonment after conviction for murder by Chester Crown Court.

Eagle stakes up

Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, and BAT Industries, the British tobacco and retailing empire, each raised their record-breaking takeover bids yesterday for the Eagle Star insurance group.

Killer executed

Louisiana's first execution in 22 years took place yesterday when Robert Wayne Williams was electrocuted for the shotgun killing of a supermarket guard.



Hospital cuts

Government plans to double the number of hospital consultants in the health service have fallen victim to spending cuts, doctors' leaders say.

Imports ban

Debt-ridden Brazil has suspended virtually all imports until next year to stop dollars leaving the country.

Leader page 13

Letters: On *The Day After*, from Mr Miles Copeland, sen; Airbus, from Lord Beswick; parole, from Professor J. E. Hall Williams

Features, pages 10-12

Len Murray Lion in the dinosaurs' den: Britain's approaching housing crisis; John P. Harris goes moonshine; moonlighting: Spectrum: a profile of Charles Price, new US ambassador to Britain

Books, page 11

Life and politics in the Soviet Union discussed by Nikolai Tolstoy and Iain Elliott; Woodrow Wyatt reviews the autobiography of Lord Elwyn-Jones; Sir John Plumb on spies; Andrew Gimson on fiction; and John Warrack on the string quartet

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Mr Marcus Marsh, Mr John Bunyan

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Murray victory leaves NGA in bitter retreat

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union resistance to the Government's labour laws began to crumble last night as Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, won a vote of confidence for his policy of non-confrontation of the Employment Act.

The TUC General Council agreed by 39 votes to 21 to uphold Mr Murray's unprecedented repudiation of a decision by the employment policy and organization committee (EPOC) to support a one-day printing strike declared unlawful by the High Court.

It now seems likely that the National Graphical Association will cut its losses and concede defeat in the six-month closed shop dispute with Mr Salim (Eddie) Shah's Messenger Group newspapers, which has cost the union £675,000 in fines for contempt of court orders banning mass picketing.

NGA leaders met in Bedford today to determine their next step. Mr Joe Wade, the union's General Secretary, was angry and bitter. He said: "Not only have we been sold down the river, but every trade union affiliated to the TUC has been sold down the river."

"This is a black day not only for the NGA, but also for the whole of the trade union movement. The decision taken by the general council is that its policy is now in conformity with the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts."

The TUC offered only "tea and sympathy" in response to the NGA's request for support under the provisions of the Wembley declaration car-

ried early last year which promised backing for unions that came into conflict with the Government's labour laws.

Mr Murray, looking relaxed and sounding confident after the six-hour general council meeting, said: "I hope this is the end of mass picketing as we have known it at Warrington". He added that unless the general council changed its mind, requests for support for action in breach of the law would be rejected.

Mr Murray carried the day by arguing that if the general council did not endorse his repudiation of the committee decision taken three nights ago, its funds might have been at risk for aiding and abetting the NGA to break the law.

Some powerful unions, including the Transport and General Workers, said last night that they would continue to give support to the NGA in its dispute with Mr Shah, and the printing trade union said it would now campaign to reverse the general council's decision. That is unlikely to come about before next year's TUC conference in September.

Moderate union leaders expressed satisfaction with the vote. Mr Alistair Graham, general council has come out clearly and said that opposition to the industrial relations legislation has to be within the law. We are not going to support unlawful action."

Mr Bill Keyes, the leader of the 82 print union and chairman of the employment policy committee declared: "We have literally isolated the union."

They cannot win without the TUC."

Mr Shah said last night that his commitment to his staff's wish not to join a union was as firm as ever. "It would have continued like that which ever way the TUC decision had gone."

But he said he had been worried that the decision might have gone the other way. He did not believe that it spelled defeat for the NGA. "I think the dispute will continue", he said.

The TUC's employment policy committee has now been told to think again on what assistance might be given to the NGA in its dispute. The general council yesterday came out in favour of a committee of inquiry set up under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service to look into the dispute.

The NGA leaders have now to decide whether to continue their defiance of the law and reimpose the mass picketing and the one-day strike, or go for an all-out stoppage in the printing and newspaper industries - all of which would bring more and bigger fines - or to return to the negotiating table with Mr Shah and get what the TUC described last night as "the best possible conclusion" to the dispute, and deter other printing employers from invoking the employment legislation.

Mr Shah is unlikely to agree to the setting up of an independent committee of inquiry and Acas will not establish such an investigation without the agreement of both sides.

Scargill calls for biggest picket

By David Felton and Ronald Faux, Warrington

Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, yesterday called on the trade union movement to mount "the biggest picket line in history" round Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah's Warrington printing works.

Addressing a rally after a rain-drenched demonstration through Warrington town centre, Mr Scargill said the TUC's policy of opposition to the Government's employment legislation should be binding on everyone, including Mr Len Murray, the General Secretary. "My advice to the TUC is, 'for goodness sake stop talking and start fighting'", he said.

The demonstration, organized by the North-west Re-

peated his determination to continue his fight.

He said he would re-engage the six dismissed NGA typographers at the centre of the dispute only on terms he had already outlined. He also revealed he intended to expand by acquiring a paid-for newspaper. Negotiations he had had recently to acquire the *Sporting Chronicle* had broken down, he said.

At the rally Mr Scargill said the NGA's battle against Mr Shah had to be fought and won. He said: "NGA members have got to realise that they have to take direct action and the rest of the movement has an obligation to join in."

Mr Shah, who had feared that some protesters might try to picket his factory, yesterday

Rate rises likely as support grant falls

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced rate support grants worth almost £12,000m to English local councils next year, a total lower in real terms than this year's and marking a further stage in the steady reduction in the share of council spending paid for by Whitehall.

The Government's share rose to almost two-thirds in the peak spending period of the 1970s, but next year it will drop to little more than half. Ministers also issued spending targets yesterday for all English county, district and city councils. In some areas the targets for next year are much lower than the amount budgeted for spending by councilors this year.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, claimed that careful spending by councils could mitigate the rate rises needed to compensate for the cut in the Government's share of council spending. Councils had predicted that the size of the last government allocation of money to them would make vast rises necessary, but the actual increase had been 6% per cent.

Ministers decide the targets and the sharing of grant using a complicated mixture of criteria based on the recent financial performance of councils and the needs of their populations for services of all kinds.

Video editors earning £100,000

By David Hewson

Three videotape editors who have each been earning more than £100,000 a year are at the centre of the dispute which has blacked out *The Big Match* from commercial television since the beginning of the football season.

The men were believed to be the three highest wage earners in the commercial television, receiving more than company directors and senior production staff at London Weekend Television where they work.

But their wages have been more than halved since video editors at the regional commercial companies, who earn between £25,000 and £40,000 a

year, refused to allow soccer coverage to be sent to London for editing by the three men at the beginning of the season.

Television industry sources emphasized last night that the £100,000-plus salaries of the three editors were produced by a unique combination of factors at LWT. Most people working in similar positions in other companies are paid far less.

At LWT, the men gain from a generous in-company agreement which has been boosted by the hours needed to produce *The Big Match*.

The men would normally work through Saturday night at greatly inflated rates in order to



Best foot forward: Prince William at Kensington Palace yesterday walking in public for the first time. More photographs, back page.

Reagan decides to run again

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan has finally decided to seek reelection next year. Encouraged by high ratings in the opinion polls, a buoyant economic recovery and a resurgence of national pride in the wake of the Grenada invasion, the President, who will be 73 on February 6, has told his senior staff he will formally announce his decision on January 29.

The announcement, which will take place four days after his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, will be made in a 15-minute nationally televised address from the Oval Office at the White House. The President has already started working on an outline of his speech.

Mr Reagan has tried to hold off a formal announcement for as long as possible, but some deadlines are approaching which have made it necessary for him to signal his intentions clearly. Before the end of this year he must sign papers to meet filing deadlines for primary elections in Illinois and New Hampshire.

President Reagan yesterday still acted coyly when asked about his election intentions during an impromptu press conference at the White House. "You'll have to wait until January 29", he told a questioner.

Although there is a handful of observers in Washington who still harbour doubts about his reelection intentions, White House aides and members of his campaign staff are absolutely convinced he will seek a second term. "I have no doubts at all that he is going to seek reelection", Mr John Buckley, a spokesman for the Reagan-Bush Campaign Committee, told *The Times* yesterday. "We are basing all our plans on the expectation he will announce his decision to run on January 29".

Continued on back page, col 1

America's big guns shell Syrians

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The Americans unexpectedly responded to Syrian anti-aircraft fire on their reconnaissance jets over Lebanon yesterday evening by ordering their 58,000-ton battleship, New Jersey, to fire her 16-in guns at the Syrian Army.

In a series of massive broadsides at dusk, the ship - steaming at high speed up the Lebanese coastline and surrounded by an escort of missile cruisers and destroyers - sent her one-ton shells soaring high over the mountains east of Beirut to explode around three villages where Syrian armour is concentrated above the capital.

The sheer scale of the bombardment can be estimated by the range of the shells that

landed near the ruined ski resort of Dahir el-Baidar, a crumbling village 23 miles east of Beirut and one third of the way to Damascus.

It lies along the main Syrian military supply route to the Chouf mountains, where the Druze militia are fighting the Lebanese Army with Syrian guns and armoured vehicles.

No sooner had the New Jersey fired off its giant shells - each manufactured at the time of the Korean War - than two other American warships, the missile cruiser *Ticonderoga* and the destroyer *Tatnell*, turned sharply towards the coastline off Beirut and began firing their five-inch guns up into the mountains.

By the time darkness fell

over the Mediterranean and hid the ships from sight, a total of more than 80 shells had landed in Syrian-occupied territory and around towns held by the Druze militia in the Chouf.

According to the Americans, Syrian anti-aircraft guns had fired at two US F14 reconnaissance jets during the early afternoon. Permission to fire the New Jersey's guns, which had not been used in anger since the Vietnam War, is understood to have been specifically obtained from the White House before the Second World War battleship was sent into action.

On Tuesday, the Americans had said that the New Jersey's guns were ready to fire, but the Syrians - and many Lebanese -

had long grown used to the idea that the vessel was a symbol.

It was the second consecutive day on which American naval vessels had bombarded the mountains and already a pattern of retaliation is developing. Syrian troops fire at US jets and American warships open up a barrage in response.

Around Beirut the security situation was deteriorating by the early afternoon, when Druze and Pishangist guns fired across the southern suburbs at each other, killing two Lebanese soldiers, while fierce street fighting broke out around the fringes of the Beirut al-Barrakieh slums.

Threats to Amman and Tripoli plans, page 6

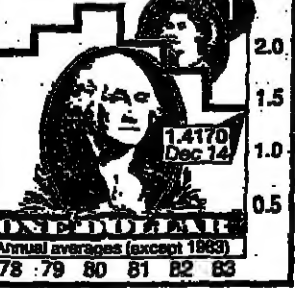
Pound still under pressure

Heavy intervention by West German's central bank, which sold an estimated \$250m (£177m) to defend its currency, knocked the dollar off its peaks yesterday and helped to take some of the pressure off sterling.

After nearly breaching \$1.41, sterling recovered slightly to close 25 points on the day in London at \$1.4170 still a record low.

It also ended lower against other leading currencies

Leading article, page 13



Solicitors' monopoly to be ended

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government is expected to promise tomorrow that it will introduce legislation of its own to remove the solicitors' monopoly on conveyancing.

Ministers have decided during the past few days that the change, which more of them, including the Prime Minister, favour, is not best achieved through Mr Austin Mitchell's House Buyers Bill.

During tomorrow's Commons debate on the second reading of that Bill, the Government will commit itself to legislation and ministers hope that MPs who favour the objectives of the Bill will then not vote for it.

The Cabinet will have to decide this morning about the timing of its own Bill. It has the powerful backing not only of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, but also of Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Conservatives who remain to be persuaded against supporting Mr Mitchell's Bill are looking to the Government tomorrow to set out the timetable for the introduction of its legislation, which they hope will be in the next session of Parliament.

Mr Mitchell will need the support of 100 MPs to prevent his Bill being "talked out". Ministers have decided, although they agree with Mr Mitchell's objective of liberalizing the market for house conveyancing by allowing building societies and banks to compete, that his Bill has so many omissions that it should not be taken over by the Government. It is felt that it provides insufficient safeguards on standards of work, qualifications and discipline.

£5 buys him a pair of boots.



Bump cap and hood £3.
Lifejacket and safety line £72.
Protective jacket £40.
Protective trousers £30.
Boots £5.

It's not much to spend on a man who risks his life saving other people's. Yet every penny that goes towards the lifeboats has to come from voluntary contributions.

You can make yours by joining Shoreline, the lifeboat supporters' club.

All we ask is your annual subscription and you receive our quarterly magazine, *Lifeboat*.

If you can afford more than £5 perhaps you could buy him a pair of trousers.

To: The Director, R.N.L.I., West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ.
I wish to join Shoreline. Here is my subscription.
Member £5 or more p.a. ☐ Family Membership £7.50 or more p.a. ☐
Member & Governor £15 or more p.a. ☐ Life Member & Governor £150 or more ☐ (On) I enclose a donation of £
Name _____
Address _____
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Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Police draft reforms on use of guns

By Our Crime Reporter

A package of changes for police firearms training and the assessment of officers in the wake of the shooting of Mr Steven Wallford in January are being proposed by a working party of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The changes include doubling the initial training period to two weeks, increasing refresher courses to two days, three or four times a year, and teaching policemen better emotional control and a better appreciation of when or when not to open fire.

Details of the recommendations are given tonight on Thames Television's programme TV Eye, which looks at the Wallford shooting. The recommendations are outlined by Assistant Commissioner Geoffrey Dear, who is in charge of training and personnel at Scotland Yard.

Decisions on the proposals are likely to be taken in the new year. There are plans to introduce a number of psychological tests to assess officers during their early training and the tests may be repeated every few years to keep pace with officers' emotional changes.

In London the recommendations would also call for the presence where possible of a member of DII, the specialized police firearms experts, when guns were used.

Irish airport plan in trouble

The Government of the Irish Republic has told sponsors of a plan to build an airport at Knock, Co Mayo, the Marian shrine village, that it will supply no more cash for the project.

More than £7m has been spent by successive governments on constructing a 7,500ft runway but a further £3.5m is still needed. Yet that the Government decided that sponsors of the airport would have to find the rest of the cash elsewhere.

BP officers halt joint mess plan

British Petroleum yesterday shelved plans for "social integration" of officers and ratings on their oil tankers after a threat of industrial action from the officers' trade union.

The Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association (MNAOA) told the oil company that its 600 members in the 26 BP vessels had adopted a policy of non-cooperation with the proposals and would obstruct any attempt to impose mixed mess and recreational facilities.

Life-support man donates kidneys

The family of Mr Graham Alcock, aged 28, yesterday approved the use of his organs for transplants, even though he is still on a life support machine.

Mr Alcock of Tean, Staffordshire, was admitted to hospital on Monday with serious head injuries when he fell 10ft from a ladder at work. But his wife yesterday accepted that he was clinically dead.

Correction

Mr Richard Hayes, Conservative MP for Mid Norfolk, points out that at a press conference on Tuesday he said he would be disappointed if the Government did not support the principles underlying the House of Lords Bill and not as reported yesterday, the Bill itself.

QE2 wrangle as Germans deny responsibility for boiler fault

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

The West German shipyard which carried out a £4.5m refit of the Queen Elizabeth 2 yesterday denied responsibility for her boiler troubles. Hapag-Lloyd of Bremen said that work was carried out on all three of the QE2's boilers during her stay: two by Hapag-Lloyd and one by a British contractor. The two boilers they had worked on worked perfectly, Hapag-Lloyd said; the other did not.

When trouble arose on the third boiler Cunard asked if the ship on stay in the yard beyond her planned departure date on Monday for it to be rectified, but Hapag-Lloyd declined, partly because of the tide.

"Our work was done. The ship left the yard with all work due to Hapag-Lloyd completed on time. We wanted to make sure the problem was not on our side."

The British contractor working on the third boiler was Hamworthy Engineering, a respected maker of marine pumps, compressors, and combustion equipment in Poole, Dorset.

A spokesman for the parent Powell Duffryn Group said: "So far as we are concerned there has been no problem with our equipment at all. We have a contract with Cunard to fit new burners to all three boilers on the QE2. One was installed satisfactorily in Bremen; the others will be done in the new year."

A key part of the new burner is an atomizer, a tube of about 4ft 2in diameter. It adds steam to heated heavy oil and sprays it into the furnace in fine droplets under pressure.

The issue appears to be: Did the third boiler fail to work because of some fault by Hamworthy or Hapag-Lloyd, or because of fault in the ship herself? There appears to have been a shortage of purified feed water to the boilers arising from a blocked pipe in the feed system.

That, as one expert said last night, was the sort of thing that could arise on any 17-year-old ship after her system has been shaken up in an overhaul.

● The liner finally sailed from Southampton last night, 22 hours behind schedule, on her three-day Channel cruise (our Southampton Correspondent writes).

Cunard said that 55 passengers had walked off the ship and asked for their money back, and that had been refunded. The remaining 1,415 passengers who stayed on board will be rewarded with free drinks throughout the remaining two days of the cruise.

Mr Bernard Crisp, Cunard's managing director, described the breakdown as a minor problem. He was confident the QE2 would be able to be sent off on her world cruise in January in perfect mechanical condition.

Jenkin cry for help on reforms

By Anthony Davies, Political Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has issued a cry for help to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues, asking them to rally round in defence of his plans for local government and rating reform.

A letter, dated December 8, points out that plans for rate-capping and the abolition of the Greater London and metropolitan county councils "are arousing considerable comment and controversy".

Mr Jenkin circulated a 40-page letter document and says in his letter: "I cannot urge too strongly that colleagues should respond whenever appropriate to arguments to which focus on their policy areas."

Mr John Cunningham, shadow spokesman on the environment, who last night published the leaked letter, said it showed that the government was "running scared".

The letter discloses that the Secretary of State put one of his junior ministers, Mr Williams-Wildegrave, in charge of a special unit "to coordinate better our response to the well organized campaign of opposition and propaganda which we face".

Extension of legal aid urged

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Legal aid should be available to people appearing before all tribunals, the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee said in its annual report yesterday.

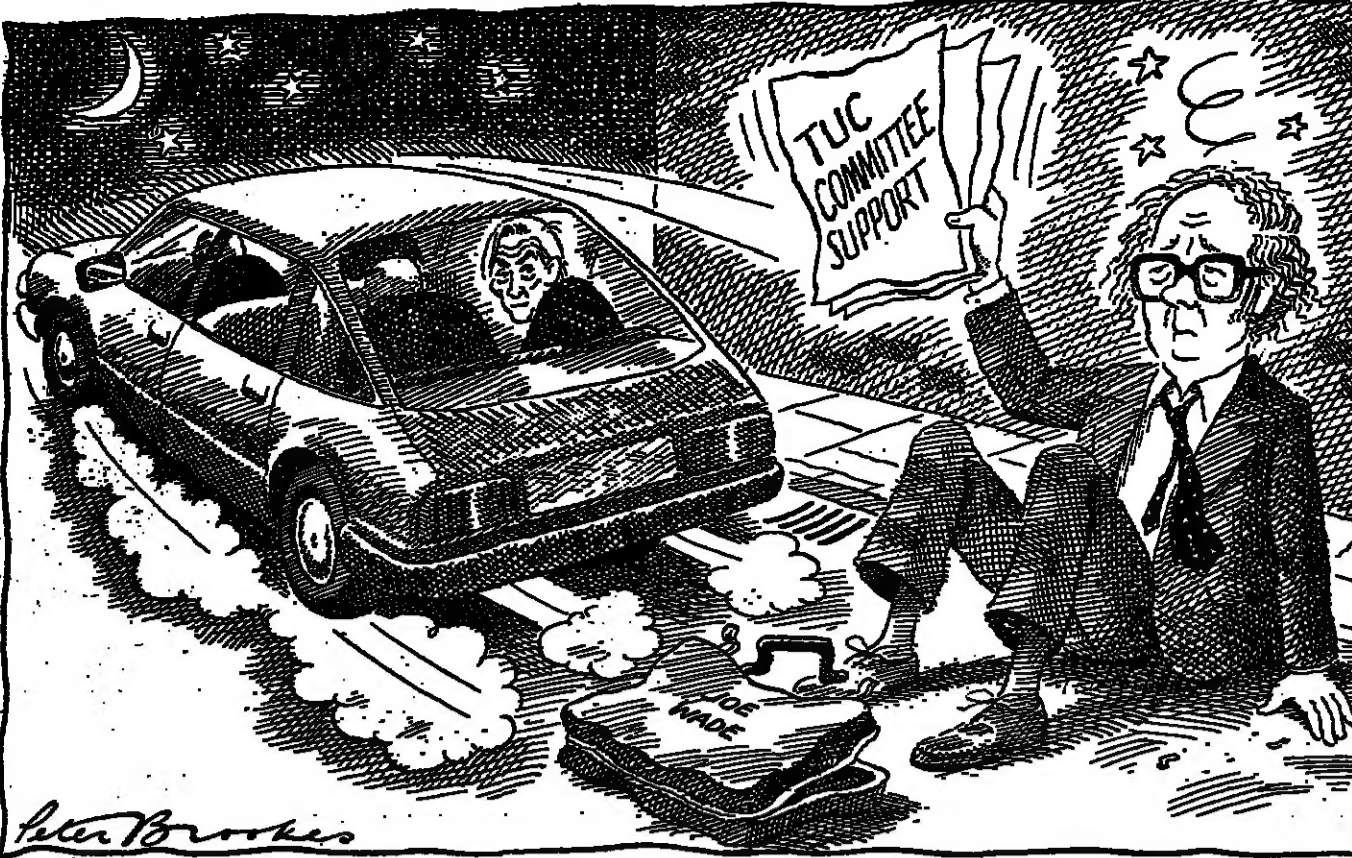
If there is not enough money to do that, tribunals dealing with personal liberty should be given priority.

The committee says: "Bail applications to the Immigration Appellate Authority are the only proceedings under the general supervision of the Council on Tribunals in England and Wales involving personal liberty for which legal aid is not available". Legal aid should be available in immigration cases where leave to appeal is granted.

The report says that the case for extending legal aid also to hearings before the Social Security Commissioners is unanswerable.

The Law Society's annual report on legal aid, published in the same document, says payments have risen from £9,130,231 in 1978-79 to £31,745,186 in 1982-83. The Law Society administers the scheme under the supervision of the Lord Chancellor.

Legal Aid: 33rd Annual Report of The Law Society and of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee 1982-83 (House of Commons Paper 137, Stationary Office, £10.75).



'Roman skull' killer guilty

Peter Reyn-Bardt last night began a life sentence for the murder of his wife Malika more than 22 years ago.

Reyn-Bardt, a former airline official aged 57, strangled his "marriage of convenience" wife in a row over money, backed her body to pieces with an axe and buried the remains in the garden of his cottage in Wiltshire, Cheshire.

A jury at Chester Crown Court took three-and-a-half hours yesterday to return an 11-1 majority "guilty" verdict after a three-day trial.

They rejected Reyn-Bardt's claim that he had struggled with his estranged wife after she attacked him and that he could remember nothing of how she died. He had denied murdering her between October, 1960, and June 1961.

The marriage of Peter Reyn-Bardt and Malika Maria de Fernandez had an air of theatrical fantasy from the start. He proposed to her less than two hours after they met, when Malika, working as a part-time waitress, served him Russian tea in a Manchester coffee bar. Three days later, on March 28, 1959, they were married.

Reyn-Bardt, then 33 and calling himself Edwin Rainbird, was a BOAC executive at Manchester Ringway airport.

He tried to disguise his homosexuality, which he discovered in the 1950s, could have cost him his job and even brought him before the courts.

In the lively woman aged 32, who spoke several languages and loved to move in the same social circles, he saw the chance of respectability. She saw the chance of cheap travel around the world and contact with the rich and famous.

After a honeymoon in Zurich, Tripoli and Rome, the new "Mrs Rainbird" soon discovered her husband's homosexuality. Their relationship, in various flats in Manchester, deteriorated within a year and she disappeared for long periods.

Soon Reyn-Bardt had set up another home in Heathfield Cottage, in Wiltshire, an affluent Manchester suburb.

Reyn-Bardt was alone in the cottage, with his large wooded garden, when his wife returned several months later. There was a bitter row and Reyn-Bardt strangled her.

In 1963 he went to Portsmouth. There, in 1975, he met Paul Russell Corrigan. This was to be his downfall.

The two men were arrested for abducting young boys from the streets of Portsmouth for homosexual offences, and jailed.

After his release in January 1981, Paul Corrigan killed a young boy in Birmingham after a rape and torture. In jail, he asked to see detectives and told them of Reyn-Bardt's story of killing his wife.

They could not do so. Reyn-Bardt, now living in Knightsbridge, was questioned about his wife's disappearance and denied murdering her.

Then, on Friday, May 13, workers collecting peat for mushroom beds found a human skull in the earth 300 yards from the grounds of Heathfield Cottage. In October tests confirmed that the skull dated from about AD 410, and had no connection with the case.

But in June police had again seen Reyn-Bardt and confronted him with the "evidence". He then admitted killing his wife.

Speedy union chiefs fail to deter writ servers

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The sight of trade unionists making a quick getaway will not deter those with the job of serving legal documents on people who may not wish to receive them.

Like the "Mounties", they have a pride in getting their man. Some are solicitors. Others make a living from the job. Serving of documents is part of the business of Flowerdew and Co, legal agents, who celebrate their centenary next year.

Their manager, Mr Philip Corbett, said yesterday: "We tell them that the documents must be served personally on the defendant. That means by handing the document to the defendant, or should he refuse to accept same in a reasonable manner, then service may be effected by leaving the document at that person's feet".

What technically counts as service has been called into question during recent trade union disputes. Two trade union shop stewards representing 2,300 striking Shell refinery workers went into hiding from officials trying to serve an injunction.

A workers' strike committee spokesman said an attempt at service was made, but the document was left on the windshield of the car of the intended recipient.

This week, The Times reported that Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, sprinted from a back door of Congress House as an official chased him down the street with High Court orders granted to several newspaper publishers pronouncing the next day's planned strike as unlawful. Mr Wade was driven away, leaving the official waving his documents at the kerb-side.

The NGA dispute

NGA members lose appeal over expulsion

The National Graphical Association acted lawfully in expelling four members for alleged strike-breaking, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Skinner dismissed a claim by four managers at John H. Burrows and Sons, of Basildon, Essex, that the union had broken its own rules by not allowing them to give oral evidence before its appeal committee or national council.

The only requirement was for an oral hearing at branch level which was offered to the men.

● The National Union of Journalists is to seek leave to appeal to the Lords today against a High Court injunction outlawing a journalists strike at Mr David Dimbleby's Richmond-based newspaper group in South West London.

● Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday refused to issue a Labour judgment on the National Graphical Association conflict with the Employment Act.

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De Lorean millions still missing, receiver says

More than \$8.5m, part of a payment which was spent by Mr John De Lorean's Belfast car company and then mysteriously disappeared, was used by him after passing through a network of Swiss and United States banks.

Investigations have shown that the sum, spent developing the De Lorean sports car, was used to guarantee a loan to the Belfast car chief, Sir Kenneth Cork, the receiver, told MPs last night.

A further \$9m, also intended for the car's technical development, is still missing and detailed checks have been unable to trace it, Sir Kenneth told the Commons Public Accounts Committee during its investigation of the De Lorean affair.

The total missing \$17.5m had been paid to a small Swiss company, known as GPD, to finance the development under contract with the Norwich car company, Lotus.

Sir Kenneth pointed to the cash manipulation as a possible breach of company law.

He said: "If someone takes money out of a company and everyone thinks it goes for a certain purpose, and it goes for no purpose at all, it is certainly a breach of some Companies Act".

RUC man may be charged with murder

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A policeman in the Royal Ulster Constabulary is expected to be charged with murdering a young Roman Catholic man three days ago.

The constable, in his twenties, was arrested at his home on Tuesday by detectives investigating the shooting of Anthony Dawson in the Roman Catholic Short Strand enclave of strongly Protestant east Belfast.

He was taken to Castlebar, a holding centre and is expected to appear at Belfast Magistrates' Court today.

Details of the arrest, which is highly embarrassing for the RUC, as the funeral of Mr Dawson, aged 18, was being held in east Belfast. The officer being questioned was off duty when Mr Dawson was shot.

NHS plan to double consultants 'in disarray'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Government plans to double the number of hospital consultants by 1996 are in disarray after restrictions on health service spending and manpower cuts, doctors' leaders said yesterday.

Figures compiled for the joint consultants committee and the British Medical Association's hospital junior staff committee show that, far from the rate of expansion in consultant numbers increasing, it has fallen for the last two years and is set to fall still further next year.

The proposal to double the number of consultants, agreed by Mr Patrick Jenkin when he was Secretary of State for Social Services in 1981, the aim was to improve both the quality of patient care and to ease the growing bottle-neck in the ranks of junior doctors who are trained to consultant status but then have to wait years for a consultant post.

Dr Frank Wells, secretary to the two committees, said yesterday that consultant numbers needed to expand at 4.7 per cent a year to meet the target.

But in the year ended last April, numbers expanded by only 1.8 per cent, the lowest growth for five years. A survey carried out by the junior doctors' union showed that this year's growth would be lower, and next year's lower still.

Of 491 new consultants posts approved for this year, it appeared that only 287 would be filled by health authorities and a consultant appointed. Next year the figure was likely to be 337.

The joint consultants committee had delivered a strong protest to ministers through Sir Henry Yellowlee, the chief medical officer at the Department of Health, he said, and the issue will be put to the BMA's council next month.

"The commitment to consultant expansion just is not taking place to anything like the degree promised or needed," he said. "It is virtually at a standstill."

Dr Aubrey Bristow, chairman of the hospital junior staff committee, said that there were many fully qualified senior registrars ready to become consultants.

Not expanding the consultants' grade meant failing to treat patients on growing waiting lists, when the doctors were ready, and available, he added.

Be curious Yard asks Londoners

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Londoners were urged by Scotland Yard yesterday to "be curious" and report anything suspicious to the police. Meanwhile the hunt got under way for the bombing team who left a powerful device close to a busy shopping street on Tuesday.

As the police stepped up their presence on the London streets at the prospect of a Provisional IRA Christmas bombing campaign, Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, called on the public to "be our eyes and ears". In turn, he promised more men and resources to combat the bombers.

As he spoke, officers from the anti-terrorist squad were still examining the remains of a 10lb device left near Kensington High Street. The device was hidden in a holdall and the police are trying to discover why it failed to explode.

In Oxford, Thames Valley officers were investigating a device left in a telephone box in Cowley late on Tuesday night. The device exploded sending the kiosk door into the road.

Yesterday the force said that no one had claimed responsibility. The police do not believe the bomb as the work of a terrorist group.

BL criticized over tax avoidance

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

BL failed to notify the Government of "substantial" tax avoidance deals in 1981 and 1982 resulting in a high cost to the Exchequer, the all-party Committee of Public Accounts reported yesterday.

Although the company is required under a memorandum to tell ministers of decisions that have important economic or political implications, it did not consult the Committee as it considered the transactions fell within tax law and were consistent with its obligations to act commercially, the report said.

The Department of Trade and Industry has "deprecated" BL's failure to report the dealings because of the cost to the Exchequer of the extra funding obtained through the arrangement and "the undesirability of publicly owned companies taking part in tax avoidance activities".

The department has decided, however, not to tighten up the memorandum after receiving BL's assurances against a recurrence.

Its reasons for doing so were described by the committee yesterday as "not entirely convincing".

Mr Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor General, said in the report, of his inquiry into the arrangements for supervising and monitoring BL that the department had become aware after the event that the company had undertaken transactions in 1981 and 1982 with third parties through which it obtained "substantial" sums in exchange for the transfer of tax losses.

He said: "BL regarded the transactions as falling within existing tax law and considered that the use of a company's tax-loss assets in this way was well established commercial practice."

Committee of Public Accounts: Session 1983-84. Department of Industry supervision and monitoring of British Leyland (Stationary Office, £2.85).

Hospitals under threat

The North West Thames Regional Health Authority is studying options that include closing as many as three big district general hospitals over the next decade, including Barnet General Hospital in Mrs Thatcher's constituency.

The options include shutting acute services at the Westminster Teaching Hospital, Central Middlesex Hospital in Brent, Mount Vernon Hospital in Middlesex, which has a specialist burns unit. St Charles and St Stephen's Hospital in London and Edgware and Barnet General Hospitals in Middlesex.

The options are set out in an internal memorandum that has been leaked to the Brent Health Emergency Campaign.

Some Police have been sent to the area to deal with the situation. The Police are now in the area to deal with the situation. The Police are now in the area to deal with the situation.

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Banking ombudsman is backed by minister after consumer survey

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A banking ombudsman to deal with customers' grievances is likely to be set up in response to the report on banking services published yesterday by the National Consumer Council.

Establishing an ombudsman is one of the key recommendations of the report, which nevertheless concludes that by and large customers are content with the service banks give.

A Market and Opinion Research Institute survey carried out for the council showed that nine in ten customers were either "very" or "fairly" satisfied with their banks, although most still wanted to see improvements.

Mrs Rachel Waterhouse, chairman of the subcommittee of the council which drew up the report, said yesterday of the customers' attitudes: "If you have a low expectation you are satisfied with what you get".

She said that the survey might suggest that nearly everything in the banking garden was lovely, but "banks should take note of the improvements that customers want to see, and the fact that building societies are already providing some of the things that banking customers say they want, such as longer opening hours".

The report, commissioned by the Government in the spring of 1982, was generally welcomed by the banks. Mr Alex Fletcher, minister responsible for corporate and consumer affairs at the Department of Trade and Industry backed the proposal for an ombudsman.

Although the council found that customers were in general highly satisfied, and rarely complained, it identified and recommended on some areas where it saw scope for improvement.

Those included opening hours and bank charges. Many customers grumbled about difficulties in getting cash out of their banks and most wanted Saturday opening. There was also considerable dissatisfaction over the way bank charges were calculated and the lack of information on charges.

Bank customers with building society accounts also tended to find their building society more friendly and easier to deal with.

The main thrust of the council's recommendations is aimed at encouraging competition between banks, building societies, and other institutions which it sees as the best way of improving the service for customers.

The council's key recommendations are:

The Government should review the development of money transmission services within two or three years. If there are signs that building societies and others are not being allowed into cheque clearing and electronic payments systems on equitable terms the Government should consider whether the Committee of London Clearing Bankers should still be allowed to control the systems.

The composite rate of interest, which favours building societies, should be abolished and savers with banks or societies should be allowed to choose whether to receive interest net or gross of tax.

Building societies should have limited powers to grant loans without the security of a first mortgage.

Banks should not deduct bank charges from customers' accounts without telling them first.

Banks should give more information to customers on the cost of overdrafts.

Changes should be made to the way banks administer wills through their trustee business.

The banks should set up and pay for the banking ombudsman, backed by an independent council, along the lines of the insurance industry's ombudsman.

The Committee of London Clearing Bankers said last night that the banks had set up a working party to study the idea of a banking ombudsman. The banks would be considering individually the recommendations on bank charges.



Happy heroine: Sharon Pankhurst, aged 13 with comedians Eric Morecombe and Ernie Wise at Westminster Abbey yesterday. Two months ago Sharon saved four of her brothers from a fire (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Children receive bravery awards

Ten children were guests of honour at a carol service in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

A youngster who tackled an armed burglar twice his size, a girl who saved the lives of her four brothers, a scout who overcame a horrific accident, were three examples of the bravery and endurance shown by the 10 "Children of Courage" who received bravery awards from Princess Alexandra.

Jerome Kishlingbury, aged 13, wrestled with a would-be burglar who attacked his mother with a knife. The boy, from Connaught Road, Reading, woke to see a strange figure bending over his sleeping sister. The man wandered into his mother's bedroom. As she telephoned the police the man planned her against the wall, holding a knife to her stomach.

Although the man was 6ft 2in and about 15 stone, the boy jumped on his back, pushed him to the floor, and "just kept kicking him. 'Of course I was frightened,' the boy said. 'It was the only thing I could do. I did not want my mum to get killed.'"

Sharon Pankhurst, aged 10 saved four of her brothers from a fire at their home in Leeds two months ago. She threw the boys—aged five, four, two, and one—out of a window to her father 20 feet below. Only then did she jump.

Other children who received awards were Shaun Nethercott, aged 12, from Exeter; Andrew McLean, aged 5, from Penarth, Glamorgan; Sarah Foggan, aged 11, from Wallasey, Merseyside; Angela Carruthers, aged 4, from Dumfriesshire, Scotland; Richard Neale, aged 11, from Kent; Lorraine Topham, aged 8, from Manchester; Carl Dickinson, aged 12, from Yorkshire; and Brenda Maxwell, aged 11, from Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

The awards were sponsored by Woman's Own magazine.

Brittan announces drive against rising drug abuse

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A British officer is to be stationed in Pakistan to monitor heroin production and a detective is to be seconded to the Dutch police to liaise on drug trafficking as part of measures announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, to combat rising drug abuse.

Mr Brittan, speaking at a diplomatic luncheon in London, announced a Government strategy against what he described as "an alarming upsurge in the abuse of dangerous drugs".

Between 1980 and last year heroin seizures rose fivefold, while cocaine seizures this year are already five times larger than in the whole of last year.

The Home Secretary announced that a synthetic opiate called dipipanone or Dicanol would be prescribed only by specially licensed doctors. The drug is widely used by young multiple drug abusers and is the centre of a large black market partly fuelled by over-prescribing doctors.

The Misuse of Drugs Act is to be widened to include some of the barbiturate drug family which are also subject to wide abuse.

Mr Brittan said he gave notice that he would not hesitate to issue a temporary order to stop doctors prescribing while they are under investigation for prescribing irresponsibly.

The Home Secretary said he would also seek to introduce legislation for the confiscation of the proceeds of crime. He said: "We must hit the criminals who profit from the misery of drug addiction and hit them hard."

The final section of the government strategy involves greater education to persuade people, especially the young, not to use drugs.

Pocket TV supplies are delayed

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The first shipments of the Sinclair pocket television set which was launched in September have been sent to customers in Britain nearly a month later than expected, principally because of production problems.

More than 5,000 have been placed with Sinclair for the two-inch flat-screen television.

It is unlikely that the backlog will be cleared before Christmas, but by the end of January, if the company realises its targets, 10,000 of the sets will be manufactured each month. A national advertising campaign is scheduled for January.

At the launch of his revolutionary television, the minute black and white screen of which is the result of six years' research and £4m investment, Sir Clive Sinclair predicted that demand would outstrip supply and that the product would initially be available only through direct mail order.

The television, which retails for £79.95, is less than a third of the price of its closest rivals.

Coin Street appeal lost by boroughs

By John Young

The Court of Appeal appeared yesterday finally to have cleared the way for the redevelopment of the Coin Street site on the South Bank in central London.

Lord Justice Waller, sitting with Lord Justice Watkins and Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson, unanimously dismissed an appeal by the Greater London Council, the London borough of Lambeth and Southwark, and the Association of Waterloo Groups. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was also refused, although the objectors can still apply directly to the Lords for leave.

The objectors' case was that Mr Tom King, former Secretary of State for the Environment, had acted inconsistently in granting simultaneous planning permission last January for two separate and incompatible schemes.

One scheme, submitted by Greycoat Commercial Estates, consisted substantially of offices and shops. The other, prepared by the Association of Waterloo Groups, a loose federation of local residents' associations, placed greater emphasis on housing and accommodation for small industries.

The site, which occupies 13 acres between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges, is seen as one of the most important in central London. The public inquiry into the two schemes gained much public attention in 1981 when demonstrators repeatedly interrupted the proceedings and succeeded in forcing a postponement.

The Court of Appeal's verdict upholds a refusal by Mr Justice Brown in the High Court last July to quash Mr King's decision.

Yesterday, Lord Justice Waller said that no decision could ever be free from criticism, but that in his opinion the criticisms made in the case had no validity. He could see no prejudice in the Secretary of State's decision.

Since one of the last acts of the outgoing Conservative GLC administration in 1981 was to sell most of the freehold to Greycoat the latter's scheme can be halted only if the Lords agree to hear a further appeal.

Law Society censured in costs case

The Law Society, the professional body for solicitors, was seriously at fault in dealing with complaints against a solicitor according to an official report published yesterday.

The solicitor, Mr Glanville Davis, of Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Dyfed, was struck off the roll of solicitors by a High Court judge last October.

Mr Leslie Parsons, a businessman of Lon Hir, Carmarthen, had brought court proceedings against Mr Davies after claiming that the Law Society had failed to deal properly with his complaints, which mainly concerned gross overcharging. Normally the Law Society takes such action.

After Mr Davies was struck off by Mr Justice Vinelott, Major-General John Allen, the Lay Observer attached to the Lord Chancellor's Department, investigated the case. In his report, published yesterday, General Allen said that the Law Society was seriously at fault on five occasions.

Mr Davies had acted for Mr Parsons for several years in a commercial dispute, where Mr Parsons received £530,000 damages. Mr Davies charged Mr Parsons £198,000, which was later reduced to £67,000 by a High Court costing official.

General Allen's report said that Mr Parsons had a valid ground for complaint about the "gross overcharging". The Law Society should have appreciated that.

The Law Society said yesterday that it accepted the Lay Observer's criticisms.

Sex-case optician is struck off

Brian Harris, an optician who admitted that he drugged women for sexual intercourse, was struck off the ophthalmic opticians' register yesterday. He had the option of appealing to the Privy Council and could apply to be reinstated after 12 months.

Mr Harris, of Cotesmore Place, Blackpool, and his wife, Edna, on hearing the General Optical Council's disciplinary hearing in Harley Street, London, were surrounded by press photographers.

Mr Harris was struck off for contravening section 11 of the Opticians Act, 1958. The decision came after a trial last April at which he was given an 18-month suspended sentence and fined £1,600, with £1,000 costs after admitting drugs and sex offences.

Mr Andrew Mirams, for the optician, told yesterday's hearing that Mr Harris had advertised for a live-in housekeeper in a local newspaper and had persuaded two women to sign a sex contract after drugging them with cannabis and making love.

The contract signed by two women, aged 23 and 35, said in part: "I further undertake and understand that any forms of sex play or intercourse will be with my full consent."

Wives earn much of home budget

By David Walker

Working wives, who some ministers believe should stay at home, contribute an important part to family budgets, according to the latest official survey on how the British spend their money.

The average gross weekly income in households in which a married woman goes out to work full or part time is nearly a third higher than in those in which she does not have paid employment, according to the Family Expenditure Survey for last year.

The figures, issued by the Department of Employment, show that between 1981 and last year household income rose, after tax and national insurance by 5½ per cent.

Households spent about £134 a week, divided as the table shows (below).

Comparing the income of households where the breadwinner is unemployed with that of working households, the survey shows a significant drop in their wellbeing between 1981 and last year.

Family Expenditure Survey 1982, Department of Employment (Stationary Office, £14).

Average weekly household expenditure	
Housing (rent, mortgage, repairs, rates)	22.29
Fuel, light, power	8.35
Food	25.19
Alcoholic drink	5.13
Tobacco	2.85
Clothing, shoes	2.99
Appliances, inc TV and misc.	3.85
Other goods (eg pet)	10.05
Care, public transport	19.75
Misc (postage, hairdressing, school fees)	15.37

Government sues over cruise leak

The Government sued *The Guardian* newspaper in the High Court in London yesterday in an effort to identify the "mole" who leaked a secret memorandum about the delivery of cruise missiles to Greenham Common.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Michael Havers, QC, Attorney General, asked Mr Justice Scott to order *The Guardian* to hand over, unredacted, a copy of the memorandum delivered anonymously and published in the newspaper.

Mr Simon Brown for the minister and the Attorney General submitted that the Government was entitled to have the document returned unredacted "so that the leakage may be speedily identified and staunch".

The newspaper is resisting the move, claiming that it is entitled to protect its anonymous source under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

The memorandum was from Mr Heseltine to the Prime Minister.

Return was sought "in the interests of national security", Mr Brown said. The documents bore origin markings and the newspaper's unredacted copy could identify which of the seven originals was leaked.

In a sworn statement read by Lord Rawlinson, QC, for the paper, Mr Peter Preston, the editor, said he considered that the document, could be classified as a political memorandum between colleagues with no national security implications. Judgment is expected today.

Murder case doctor is banned from driving

Dr Robert Jones, whose wife was found murdered in October, was fined £100 yesterday and disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Dr Jones, of Lees Farm, Coggeshall, Essex, pleaded guilty at Maldon Magistrates' Court to driving with one and a half times the legal limit of alcohol. He was ordered to pay £50 costs.

The magistrates refused to accept submissions, by Mr Oliver Sells, for Dr Jones, that there were special circumstances under which they might consider not disqualifying him. Dr Jones has been under pressure from the publicity surrounding his wife's disappearance, Mr Sells said.

Mrs Diana Jones disappeared on July 23. Her body was found near Brightwell, Suffolk, in October.

Firms in talks to save TV satellite

By Bill Johnston

Representatives from the companies expecting to design and manufacture the BBC's television satellite met government ministers yesterday in a final attempt to ensure that the £350m project is not aborted.

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, and Mr Douglas Hurd, minister responsible for broadcasting, represented the Home Office, and Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, represented the Department of Trade and Industry.

Government advisers are divided on whether the BBC should be directed to sign a contract with the satellite manufacturers.



Dr Jones after the hearing at Maldon yesterday.

Police deny using random breath tests

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Sussex Police have denied that they used random drinking checks when they stopped motorists and required them to take a breath test at the start of a Christmas road safety campaign. One in four drivers failed the test.

The times and places of stops were advertised in advance. Mr David Bryant, a Sussex police spokesman, said.

A sample of drivers was stopped for a general check of vehicles under section 159 of the Road Traffic Act, 1972. This says that a driver must comply with a uniformed officer's signal to stop and give an officer time to carry out his duty.

If an officer suspects that a driver, when stopped, has alcohol in his body above the limit a test would be given.

A policeman in uniform may require a breath test to be taken when he reasonably suspects that:

- A person driving, attempting to drive or in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place has alcohol in his body or
- A person who has been driving, attempting to drive or been in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place has committed a moving traffic offence.

A policeman, who need not necessarily be in uniform, may require a breath test - if an accident occurs because of the presence of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place - from any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe was driving, attempting to drive or was in charge of a vehicle at the time of the accident.

A breath test may be required to be taken at or near the place where the requirement is made or at a police station specified by the policeman if there has been an accident.

A policeman may arrest without warrant any person if he has reasonable cause to suspect that the prescribed limits are being exceeded or if a person fails to take a breath test.

The breath tests carried out at the roadside are for screening purposes. If the tests show that a driver may be over the limit, he will be taken to a police station for further tests.

A policeman may require a person at a police station to take a breath test unless it is not practicable to use the machine, or the person cannot use it for medical reasons, or it is suspected that the person may have taken drugs. In such cases, a specimen of blood (the usual choice) or urine may be required.

There is no right to ask for a blood or urine test unless the reading from the breath analysis machine is between 35 and 50 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

The police, however, have the right to select which sample is taken.

The prescribed limit of alcohol is 35 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath; 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood; 107 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine.

The presumption that the alcohol at the time of the alleged offence was not less than the evidence obtained may be rebutted if the accused person can prove that he or she had consumed alcohol after driving, attempting to drive, or being in charge of the vehicle.

It must also be proved that had this alcohol not been consumed in the intervening period, the prescribed limit would not have been exceeded or the ability to drive not impaired.

There is a statutory defence when the alleged offence is for "being in charge", if it can be proved that the circumstances at the time were such that there was no likelihood of driving while the prescribed limit was exceeded.

The penalty for refusing to submit to a test without a reasonable excuse is a fine of up to £200. Procedures provide for a driver categorized as a problem drinker being medically examined and being permitted to resume driving only after effective treatment and cure.

Woman can remain in kitchen

Mrs Jean Wright, aged 51, has won a legal fight to spend her working life cooking and washing up for 150 inmates.

In a 43-page decision, a Birmingham industrial tribunal ruled yesterday that the Prison Officers Association was guilty of sex discrimination by threatening industrial action if the Home Office did not move Mrs Wright from her job as a kitchen supervisor, at the Warrington House detention centre for young offenders in Staffordshire, to other work in a woman's prison.

The tribunal's reserved decision makes it unlawful for a union to strike or threaten action against a woman.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, for the association, had argued that Mrs Wright was a security risk because she could not search the male prisoners.

Teacher 'lost job over baby'

A former convent school teacher, Miss Eileen Flynn, told an employment appeals tribunal in co Wexford in the Irish Republic yesterday that she lost her job because she became pregnant.

The head of the Holy Faith Order told an earlier hearing that Miss Flynn was dismissed because of her bad example in living with a married man.

Nilsen verdicts

The Hornsey coroner, Dr David Paul, directed a jury yesterday to return verdicts of unlawful killing on nine victims of Dennis Nilsen. Four of the victims were unidentified.

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Jenkin predicts lower rate bill for some

ENVIRONMENT

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, in a statement to the Commons, held out the hope of low rate increases or even cuts in rates for some people. This would be possible, he said, if local authorities budgeted to spend within the targets he had set.

Mr Jenkin said: Local authority current spending forms part of the total of public expenditure. For next year, the House endorsed that total in the debate following the publication of the Annual Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Rate Support Grant report which is published today deals with three elements which bear on the level of local authority current spending. These are, first, the targets for individual authorities which, in aggregate, relate to the total figure in the Annual Statement; second, the amount of, and method of, distributing Rate Support Grant to local authorities; and third, the arrangements for grant holdback for authorities who spend above target.

There is of course a fourth element - namely the level of rates and precepts, these are fixed by each local authority in the light of its own spending decisions and the impact of the other three elements.

In each of the last four years, local authority current spending has far exceeded the provisions made in the public expenditure White Paper. In each RSG settlement, therefore, my predecessors have had to take account of this by increasing the provision for the following year.

For instance, for the current year, 1983-84, the provision was increased this time last year by about £1,100m, or around 6 per cent, to spend at the rate of 1.10 per cent. The 1984-85 settlement will be budgeted to overspend by a further £770m or 3.8 per cent.

In the context of our policy of holding public spending in check, a rate repeatedly exceeding the target of 1.10 per cent is a cause for concern. It is a sign that a local authority is spending more than it is allowed to, and that it is not being able to control its own capital spending.

Those who complain loudest about restrictions on capital spending are often those who have not been able to control their own current spending.

Of course, not all local authorities are equally to blame. On the contrary, around 80 per cent of all authorities are budgeting this year to spend at or below the target. The great bulk of the overspend arises from the decisions of the remaining 20 per cent of authorities to spend above those levels set for them by tens of millions of pounds.

Indeed, no more than sixteen authorities are responsible for around three quarters of the total overspend. As the House knows, it is the Government's intention to deal directly with that problem of the highest overspenders in a Bill which I hope to introduce before Christmas. But that must be for another day. This statement relates to 1984-85, which of course cannot be affected by the proposed legislation.

For the next year, therefore, we must sustain pressure for real reductions in local authority current spending across the board. At the same time, we must make a greater distinction between the majority of local authorities who have made efforts to find economies and the minority of high spenders who have not.

Since August I have been consulting local authorities on the main proposals for next year's settlement. There have been two meetings of the Consultative Council on Local Government Finance; my colleagues and I have met a great many deputations from individual councils; and we have received written representations from many more.

As the House will see, we have taken account of some of the points raised with us in the settlement which I am announcing today. The main features are as follows.

Provision for local authority current spending for 1984-85 is £2,400m, an increase of over £400m on the provision made in last February's public expenditure White Paper. The aggregate of targets comes to just over this figure (£2,350m). This is about 3 per cent higher than the target for the current year. The basis for fixing targets remains broadly as I proposed in August.

The distinction between low spending and high spending authorities will be much more marked next year than hitherto. The targets for most low spending authorities represent a cash increase of 3 per cent over their budget this year. The

targets for most high spenders represent a cash cut of up to 6 per cent.

In the light of the representations since August, I am proposing three minor changes which will have the effect of increasing targets for some 107 authorities.

The three changes, which all operate to reduce the budget baseline and so increase the real income for next year, cover: (1) the reduction of the target for the total of public expenditure; (2) the reduction of the target for the total of public expenditure; and (3) the reduction of the target for the total of public expenditure.

Even with these changes, the targets are tough for everyone, but they are much tougher on the minority of high spending authorities where the biggest scope for economy lies.

I now come to grant. Aggregate Rate Support Grant for next year will be £11,900m, £90m more than in the current year. It is 51.9 per cent of total relevant expenditure compared with 52.8 per cent for this year.

Although there are a number of technical changes in the method of distributing the grant to local authorities, these should have only a small effect on the individual ratepayer.

The third element in the settlement is the grant holdback. As the House knows, the system is designed to ensure that the grant block grant by making sure that the impact of overspending falls on ratepayers to whom local authorities are accountable and not on the general body of ratepayers.

For authorities which exceed their target, I confirm the pattern of holdback proposed in October. At ratepayer level, holdback will be at 1 per cent for the first percentage point of overspend; 4p for the second; 8p for the third; and 9p for each percentage point above that.

No discretionary spending is disregarded, that is, it does not count against an authority's spending for the purposes of the target and holdback regime. As this year, we have decided to ignore using programme expenditure by partnership and programme authorities, and increased expenditure on civil defence.

Next year, there will be an additional disregard. I propose to disregard increased expenditure on those community care schemes which are jointly financed with health authorities. I hope that this relaxation will be widely welcomed by local authorities.

The House will wish to know the impact of all this on the level of rates.

Local authorities budget to spend in line with the targets I have set, the average increases facing ratepayers next year should be very low. For some ratepayers, there could be rate reductions. High rates are unfair to ratepayers, damage to industry's competitiveness and destructive of jobs. It is now up to each local authority to take its spending decisions in the light of the announced targets and to live with a clear view of the impact of those decisions upon their ratepayers.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, (Copeland, Lab); How will he describe the target for the black grant for next year represents a real terms cut of £169m compared with 1983-84, without acknowledging a major increase in rates which will mean, as he will be well aware, the rate of inflation?

Will he confirm that the total target for 1984-85 has just been announced will be over £400m below local authorities' budgets in the current year, and that the target for next year is even lower?

Is it not true that, after provision for inflation, the Government is asking local authorities to cut back by £1,450m or almost 7 per cent in real terms?

What does he say to the Conservative leader of the Association of County Councils who has described the target as "unachievable and entailing severe cuts in budgets and services?"

Does he refute the report of the expenditure groups which predicted, using his figures, 12,000 fewer residential places for the elderly and mentally handicapped, 46,000 fewer home help visits, 7,000 fewer police, reductions in hospital care, fire schemes, and rises above the rate of inflation?

Is not the most sinister prospect of all the anti-democratic nature of the Government's policy and proposals towards local government, which deny councillors and communities their right to choose?

The straightfaced successive Tory ministers have placed on local authorities is to be further tightened to the point where budgets and rates will be dictated from Whitehall.

Mr Jenkin: He asked if the targets were not impossible to achieve and would mean a slashing of essential services. The answer is no. The targets for next year are about 3 per cent more than the targets for this year and that is not unreasonable in the present circumstances.

The targets are framed to put the most pressure on the highest spenders and many of these are authorities which have made no effort at all to reduce their spending levels. We know there is substantial scope for economies in such authorities without jeopardizing reasonable service levels.

He asked if it is a real terms cut. The answer is neither here nor there in any position to put a figure on what means because it all depends on how fast the costs of local government go up next year.

Some 70 per cent of local authority costs are on wages and if local government achieve low wage settlements this year a 3 per cent cash increase will mean only a small real terms cut.

Do not disguise the fact that we are having to ask for economies across the board in local government and in the rest of the public sector.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C): Why should a low spending, well administered county like Essex, which for years has kept its expenditure under control, be penalized because of the irresponsible behaviour of high spending local authorities?

Mr Jenkin: We have to look for savings from all authorities. That is not always wholly fair. If we can limit the rates of the highest spenders perhaps we can deal in a little more relaxed way with those who have budgeted responsibly.

Mr Brian Sedgewore (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab): His statement will be greeted with dismay in the local community and

Beaumont-Dark: Making councils into quangoes

may well set off a fuse which will lead to disorder and the complete breakdown of local government.

Mr Jenkin: The extravagance of his language is unworthy of him. Hackney's problems are not unique. The people of Hackney will object to the apalling high rates which will be charged on them as a result of the council's profligacy.

Mr John Cunningham (Copeland, Lab): Those of us who regard the present rating system as an unjust form of taxation will be bound to vote against an order which increases the proportion of local government expenditure funded by an inherently unjust form of taxation.

Mr Jenkin: He is entitled to his view. No Government has fought harder for an alternative system of local authority finance. There is no alternative which appears to command any consensus. The Government has decided to stick with the rate system.

Mr William O'Brien (Normanton, Lab): This means further cuts for local government. What he has related is a further admission that the Government has failed in its philosophy and promise to abolish domestic rates.

Mr Jenkin: The Government recognizes that the targets are tough. The budgeted spending of local authorities is running far ahead of the amounts approved by the House. In these circumstances we have to ask local authorities to make economies to keep their total spending in line with the total which this House approved as recently as last month.

Many local authorities have shown that they can make savings by increasing efficiency without cutting services. It is time that they rest.

Mr Christopher Smith (Islington South and Finsbury, Lab): His statement that the targets are particularly tough on high spending authorities reveals that his targets

BBC attacked over sex and violence

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government had a compelling obligation to reform and strengthen the television and radio legislation as a first step to the BBC and IBA restraining offensive material in their television programmes.

Lord Nield of Guildford (C) said when he opened a debate in the House of Lords on the BBC annual report.

Giving an example of what went over on television screens, he said that in a BBC programme for youngsters they were shown three relationships for their future lives. The first was an engaged couple to be conventionally married; the second a couple not married by "shacked up"; and the third, a couple of homosexuals.

To teach youngsters (he said) that promiscuity and perverted relationships are a serious alternative to marriage as a way of life is both dangerous and irresponsible. It is treating them as bodies without souls.

The BBC defended this programme as being educational.

A second example was on ITV which showed a picture of the crucifixion with Christ with a cigar in his mouth as a parody of an advertisement for cigars. The IBA had the grace to apologize.

He was concerned about the erosion of standards in national life. The trend of television programming to show more sex and violence influenced young minds to contribute to the national scene of violence and immorality.

Lord Mervyn Davies, for the Opposition, criticized the *Yearning for Paradise* programme for leaving out important debates in the House of Lords which, he said, many members of the public would have been interested in.

Lord Taylor of Gryffe (SDP) said the two broadcasting systems should not regard them as being in direct competition. They should induce into this area a degree of co-operation between the two systems rather than feel that all the time they were competing in the race for ratings.

The Bishop of Norwich (the Rt Rev Maurice Wood) wondered if in his sacred name of freedom they needed to be as much as languages on TV "for the sake of verisimilitude".

Constant vigilance was needed on the part of the corporation in terms of blasphemy and obscenity.

Lady Lane-Fox (C) said a large part of the blame for the lowering of standards lay with the newspapers and playwrights. She had at one time thought of making a career of scriptwriting but found the use of four letter words was advised in making scripts sound more natural.

She had been writing and selling buyers of scripts would find themselves outstayed in their beliefs. The many complaints about BBC programmes showed there was a constant low quality appetite which ought to be considered.

Lord Jenkins of Putney (Lab) said he believed the present standard of the BBC in representing, for example, the depiction of sexual relationships, was about right and he would be loath to see any further Government-imposed restrictions.

He was concerned at the casual

Peers claim whisky is medicine

HOUSE OF LORDS

A plea for a reduction in taxation on Scotch whisky was made by Lord Boothby (Ind) during Lords question time, when he said it was a better medicine than any drug, but the penalty put its comfort beyond the reach of all but the well-to-do.

Lord Boothby said: What possible justification is there for continuing to tax Scotch whisky much more heavily than imported fortified wines?

Lord Cockfield, for the Government, replied: Tradition and the needs of the revenue (laughter).

Lord Boothby: Does the Government realize that in the modern world, Scotch whisky is about the only thing left that brings guaranteed and sustained comfort to mankind?

What is the purpose of pursuing a policy which, by means of penal taxation on a particular commodity, deprives us of all its comfort except for the comparatively well-to-do and simultaneously reduces the revenue to the Exchequer, damages the export trade and constitutes a serious threat to the economy of Scotland where many distilleries are facing possible closure?

Lord Cockfield: I appreciate his sentiments. Taxation on Scotch whisky raises approximately £1,200m a year which is not an insignificant sum. During the lifetime of this Government, taxation on Scotch whisky, the excise duty, has increased by 45.5 per cent while the duty on fortified wines has increased by 76.9 per cent. The Government has therefore significantly shifted the burden of taxation away from whisky.

As this is the season of good will, might I mention that since 1970, under four successive governments, the total taxation on whisky in real terms, has declined by 45 per cent.

Lord Skelton (Ind): As this liquid is in general consumption by peers and many cannot do without it because it is the nature of a medicine, could it be referred to the committee that deals with peers' expenses with the suggestion it be included as being set against expenses incurred (laughter).

Lord Cockfield: Unfortunately I have no responsibility for the committee on peers' expenses. The Government has taken a number of measures to assist the whisky industry, for example a substantial measure of duty deferment for wines and spirits which was introduced which improved the cash flow of the whisky industry by £200m and the Government has secured a refund from the European Community on corn and distillers' waste worth about £100m.

The Bishop of Norwich (the Rt Rev Maurice Wood) who said that although he was not a whisky drinker himself, perhaps a tax free day might be not a bad idea to mark Lord Boothby's 100th birthday. I might (he added) be tempted on that day myself.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Telecommunications Bill, 1983-84, Lord G. Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange) Bill, second reading.

Mr Tebbit: He does not apply his mind to the basic arithmetic. He is simply suggesting that we should have a huge surplus on manufactured goods, oil and invaluables, and preserve our currency? He has said the Japanese do it. Does he suggest we should adopt Japanese trading practices and write the whole of the world's trade structure?

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, asked during Commons questions how the adverse trend in Britain's manufacturing trade could be reconciled with comments by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, about improving the competitiveness of British industry.

Mr Shore asked Mr Tebbit if he denied that last year there was a surplus on British manufacturing trade of about £2,500m and that this year, on current trends, it looked like being a deficit of £2,000m.

Can Mr Tebbit recall any year in which a more massive adverse movement in our balance of trade has taken place (he added) apart from the fact that this is the first year in our recorded history when we have had a deficit on manufactured goods?

If this is clear evidence that British industry is ceasing to be competitive in a major way, what on earth does Mr Tebbit intend to do about it?

'Come home' call to car designers

The Government is determined to enhance the status of designers and their role in Britain's economic fight against Japan, Mr John Birt, Under Secretary for Trade and Industry, told MPs during questions.

Mr Alan Williams, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, had said it was a major blow to this objective that United States car manufacturers operating in this country had transferred their design capability to the continent.

Mr Birt: Our representations on the design front are wide ranging. It is certainly the case that a number of foreign cars, including German cars which have high import penetration into this country, are designed by British people.

We have to create opportunities for these people to come back.

Reith lecture

Call for 'free' royal commissions

A permanent royal commission with a pool of 200 members able to conduct "independent and statesmanlike investigations" into issues of public importance was advocated last night by Sir Douglas Warr, former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, in the year's final BBC Reith Lecture.

Unlike previous royal commissions, the Warr model would have powers to pick its own subjects for investigation. Sir Douglas said he would think of many matters that would benefit from "dispassionate and authoritative investigation free from party and sectional prejudice".

He mentioned the political supervision of the police, the relevance of the social security system to poverty and incentive, and the financing of higher education. He would be happy to accept the risk that the commission would investigate constitutional issues such as proportional representation, the jury system, and the disestablishment of the Church of England.

Sir Douglas's suggestion is unlikely to find favour with his former master, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Since becoming Prime Minister in 1979 she has not founded one royal commission.

In the code used by former officials, an indirect attack on the more dogmatic Thatcherism was detectable when Sir Douglas turned to the need for empirical research and evidence as a basis for policy-making.

"There are some politicians, of a more ideological cast of mind, who are unenthusiastic. Facts can be uncomfortable bedfellows alongside dogmatic conviction."

Sir Douglas's reason for backing a "super" royal commission was his desire for public knowledge and participation to be enriched.

Appointments would be for a fixed period. They would reflect a spread of ages, backgrounds, and professions.

The crucial link between the subject matter of investigation and the government of the day, which in the past has always picked it, would be broken.

BUPA plans to build its first old people's home

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The British United Provident Association is to build a residential home for the frail elderly in Milton Keynes, in a radical departure from its traditional role of providing private health care and hospitals funded by insurance.

The 36-place home, which will cost £1.5m, will consist of six places for the mentally infirm, with a place expected to cost between £150 and £175 a week, a rate described by BUPA as "very competitive".

The places will not be covered by BUPA insurance. Those living there will have to finance their stay from their own or relatives' income or from the newly-established Department of Health and Social Security payments for accommodation in residential and nursing homes if they are on supplementary benefit.

BUPA subscribers, however, are likely to receive priority for places in the home.

Mr Derek Damerell, chief executive of BUPA, said that the project was experimental. The home will be aimed chiefly at the over-75s, the "frail elderly", whose number is expected to grow significantly in the coming years.

At the moment, he said, the home was a "one-off". "We have made absolutely no decision on where we go from here," but if the scheme went well it was possible other similar homes could follow.

The present scheme will be financed from BUPA's reserves, but if the home is followed by other charities, or possibly building societies, might become involved.

The home will include single and double rooms, with the six psycho-geriatric rooms screened off from the rest of the building.

The home will provide nursing cover, but the aim is to provide a much of a domestic setting as possible for those living out their last years there.

Mr Mike Smith, director of BUPA Hospitals Ltd, said BUPA had examined what others had done in providing residential homes and hoped to learn from others' mistakes, to provide a high standard of care at reasonable cost.

BUPA was not, however, considering providing insurance for such accommodation because it was not an insurable risk.

Yesterday, BUPA also announced increases of between 4 and 5 per cent in its basic subscription rates, after increases of up to 5 per cent last July.

The rises come after steep increases in subscription rates last year, which resulted in BUPA losing between 300 and 350 company schemes covering almost 50,000 people. Its chief rivals, Private Patients Plan and Western Provident Association and the smaller commercial insurers, offered lower rates.

As a result, the number of BUPA subscribers has dropped by about 1 per cent this year, but in recent months the association has claimed to be winning back business, arguing that other insurers will need big subscription rises which will restore BUPA's competitive edge.

Mr Damerell said yesterday that overall growth in the market this year will have been between 2 and 3 per cent, and BUPA's forecast is about 3 per cent growth overall next year.

"An exceptional growth of 1980 and 1981 is unlikely to be repeated," he said.



Seasonal cheer: The Queen at the opening of Newham General Hospital in the East End of London, yesterday, with Lady Sherman, chairman of Newham Health Authority. After unveiling a plaque the Queen asked the date - she that she could sign the visitors' book. Lady Sherman told her it was December 16, and it was left to a member of the audience to correct her. The Queen then toured the hospital, visiting two mixed surgical wards.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

For the second time within a week the Speaker found it necessary on Tuesday to ask Mr Kinnock, with courtesy and as much delicacy as he thought appropriate, not to overdo it at Question Time.

The previous Wednesday the Speaker had sought, without immediate success, to bring to a conclusion Mr Kinnock's marathon multi-question to the Prime Minister on her Athens statement. This week it was when Mr Kinnock rose to put his fourth successive question to Mrs Thatcher that the Speaker intervened.

These episodes naturally gave much pleasure to the Conservative benches. But that was not particularly significant. A party leader must expect to be jeered by the opposing team. It is when he upsets his own party that he needs to worry.

The Leader of the Opposition can exercise his prerogative to ask an unlimited number of questions, but if he does so he reduces the amount of time available to other members of his party to put their questions. When Mr Kinnock rose once again on Tuesday to Skinsner's face was a study. He too had a contribution to make, which he will not have considered less relevant or telling than Mr Kinnock's.

Mr Kinnock's mistake is almost certainly to attach too much importance to these jousts with Mrs Thatcher. He should appreciate that most leaders of the Opposition over the past 30 years have gone on to win a general election after having come off worse in their encounters with the Prime Minister at Question Time.

The advantages of the premiership are so great that a wise Leader of the Opposition will not risk his position on these occasions. But he will be careful to conduct himself in a way that will not damage morale on his backbenches.

Ransom demands for stolen Christmas

From Our Own Correspondent

A ransom demand of £10,000 was made by a man who claimed to have stolen a Christmas tree from a house in the City of London. The man, who was identified as a 30-year-old man, was seen by a police officer on Tuesday morning. He was holding a large Christmas tree and a bag. The police officer stopped him and searched him. He found a small amount of cash and a piece of paper with the name 'John Smith' written on it. The man was taken to a police station and charged with theft. He is being held in custody.

Behind the leader, a seething ambition

One of the laws of British politics is that while the open combat is between parties, the competition that really matters, to a politician is within his own party. In the Labour Party he will need the support of his peers to be elected to the Shadow Cabinet. In any party he will have to win the favour of his superiors to be given office.

Behind any leader there is a mass of seething, frustrated ambition, striving for the attention of the party. If he fails to take account of that he will not long retain the confidence of his supporters; but so long as he is sustained by his party he will not come to much harm in the House of Commons.

The critical parliamentary moments are not when both sides are shouting at each other. It is when one is on the rampage and the other is sitting in embarrassed silence. But for a politician really to exercise authority in the house he must command attention from members of other parties as well.

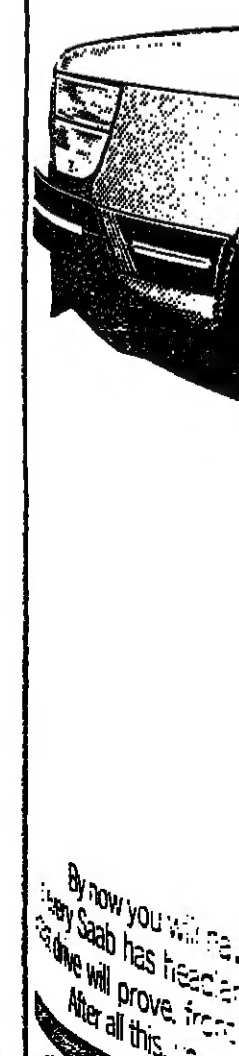
The macabre charm of Norman Tebbit

This comes most easily when they are simply interested to hear what he has to say. Dr Owen, especially on foreign affairs, is listened to with respect these days. Mr Healey has been providing his new leader with an object lesson in the art of harrying a government at the drop of any international crisis. He has done this partly by displaying his massive knowledge of foreign affairs with opportunistic skill; and partly by force of personality. He has the experience and the confidence that comes from the extinction of hope. He knows now that he can never make it to the top.

Force of personality is also Mr Tebbit's greatest parliamentary strength. He gives the impression of being sure of himself and his subject matter. Even for his most hostile critics he has a certain macabre fascination. They may shout at him, but they listen too.

Long experience is not essential, however, for parliamentary authority. One of the newcomers to the Shadow Cabinet, Mr Robin Cook, has shown impressive glimpses of the necessary quality - though he has the advantage of being the Labour spokesman in a field, European affairs, where a number of Conservative members are sympathetic to his views.

The one quality shared by these and all other accomplished parliamentary performers is a sense of confidence. That is Mrs Thatcher's greatest parliamentary strength. But assurance can sometimes be conveyed most eloquently by allowing others to do most of the talking.



مكتبة الأصل

Franco-Spanish concord on Basque terrorism ends in renewed tension

From Diana Geddes, Paris

After a brief honeymoon period between the French and Spanish authorities over the Basque terrorist issue following the election of a Socialist Government in Spain and promises of greater cooperation by the French, there is renewed tension between the two countries, amounting at times to exasperation and anger.

Spanish police feel that the French police are not doing nearly enough to crack down on members or supporters of ETA, the Spanish Basque terrorist organization, who have taken refuge in the French Basque country. French police feel that the Spanish police are flagrantly disrespecting French sovereignty by coming uninvited across the border in hot pursuit of suspected terrorists.

In October, four Spanish policemen were arrested in Bayonne after being caught red-handed in what looked like an attempt to "kidnap" a suspected leading ETA member as he was riding through the town on his motor cycle.

A French policeman saw four men in an unmarked car apparently deliberately crash into the motor cyclist. He intervened and the men, all of whom turned out to be members of the Spanish anti-terrorist squad, were charged with

premeditated wounding and imprisoned. They were released last week, however, for want of sufficient evidence to bring the case to court.

Yesterday M Segundo Marey, aged 51, a businessman of Spanish origin from the French Basque border town of Hendaye, was released after being kidnapped 10 days earlier by a previously unknown group calling itself the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group.

An anonymous caller to a radio station in San Sebastian on the Spanish side of the border telephoned yesterday morning to say M Marey's kidnapping was a "warning" and that the group wanted to reply "blow by blow" to the violence perpetrated by ETA, the caller went on to make threats against French interests and personalities in Europe.

A similar message, written in broken French strewn with Spanish turns of phrase, was discovered on M Marey when he was found cold and blindfolded under a tree near the frontier. The French police say that they think it was a case of mistaken identity. M Marey having been taken for an ETA sympathizer when he had no known political connexion of any kind.

However, two days after M Marey's kidnapping, an anonymous

caller telephoned the Red Cross in San Sebastian to say that he would be set free in exchange for the release of the four Spanish policemen.

Maitre Jacques Torunaire, lawyer for the Spanish Consul in Bayonne, who defended the four Spanish policemen, said that the Spanish Government was "exasperated" by the failure of the French authorities to cooperate with the Spanish police in their attempts to stamp out Basque terrorism.

Since the Socialists had come to power in Spain just over a year ago, there had been 500 ETA victims in Spain, including 49 deaths, he said. "Nowadays the terrorists who seek refuge in France do so because of what they have done, not because of what they think. Everyone knows perfectly well that the ETA leadership meets regularly on the French side of the border", he added.

Extradition refused: The French Government yesterday refused "for legal reasons" a Spanish request to extradite Señor Juan Domingo Martínez, an alleged extreme right-wing militant, who was condemned to death by the Spanish courts last July for the murder of a Communist militant in Madrid in May 1980.



Toast to peace: President-elect Lasinchi of Venezuela (right) and President Monge of Costa Rica raise their glasses after the latter's arrival in Caracas for talks on the Central American crisis.

Walesa falls ill and refuses summons

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate yesterday refused to obey an official summons to the prosecutor's office saying that he had fever, and back pains.

Some of Mr Walesa's aides had suspected that the summons could be an attempt to dissuade the former union chief from delivering a speech tomorrow that is intended to chart Solidarity's future course.

Last year, when Mr Walesa announced his intention of making a speech, he was bundled into a car by plain clothes policemen and driven around the town of Gdańsk for several hours.

A spokesman for the Walesa household said yesterday that he had fever - a temperature of 38.4C (about 101F) - and rheumatic back pains. Implicitly, friends of Mr Walesa have linked his ailment with the harassment handed out by police on the long journey on Tuesday to Gdańsk from Czestochowa - where he dedicated his Nobel medal to the Virgin Mary.

Tomorrow is the thirteenth anniversary of the shooting of workers on the Baltic coast, and Mr Walesa had hoped to make use of the symbolism of that event, to present his new programme. The Solidarity underground has also called for protest marches.

Contras sink their differences

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

The two main groups of anti-Sandinista rebels are to begin coordinating their guerrilla attacks in northern Nicaragua.

The announcement at a press conference in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, is the first real sign that the rival contra bands, are putting aside their deep differences and uniting their efforts to topple the Government in Managua.

The Costa Rica-based Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (Arde), led by the roguish Sandinista hero, Señor Edén Pastora, said it was forming a northern front, to fight its way down through the huge eastern province of Yelays and join up with the main Arde force in the south.

A team of four Arde representatives said they have already held talks on coordinating operations with leaders of the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), which is based in Honduras.

In the past, Señor Pastora has shunned the FDN because its guerrillas are trained and led in the field by former members of the notorious National Guard of the late Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza.

The Arde spokesman in



Alexis Argüello: Fighting in the mountains.

Tegucigalpa, Señor Miguel Uros Blanco, said his recruits in the north would receive training alongside the FDN. Arms were not immediately available, but supporters in El Salvador had donated 1,000 pairs of boots.

Though the FDN is the largest of the five groups of

contras, Arde's development has been the most dramatic. It began fighting in M with only 300 men, and now claims to have 7,000 armed guerrillas in southern Nicaragua and another 2,000 awaiting weapons.

The US special envoy, Mr Richard Stone, visited Central America recently to convince the contras to work together. There have been suggestions in Washington that unless they do so, and start producing solid military results, their CIA funds may be withdrawn.

A Sandinista amnesty for rank-and-file guerrillas, designed to woo rebel peasants away from their squabbling leadership, may be another reason why the contras feel they must now start acting in unison.

The contras are nothing if not a bizarre collection. Speaking at the press conference was Nicaragua's former would-be boxing champion Alexis Argüello, who said he had been fighting with Señor Pastora in the mountains for the past months.

Señor Argüello held three world titles at different weights during a long career. He defeated Britain's Jim Watt for the lightweight crown in London in 1981.

Trudeau lashes out at his critics

From John Best, Ottawa

The Canadian Prime Minister Mr Pierre Trudeau, has turned his back on Canadians eagerly awaiting word on his retirement, and on "piquebacks" in the Pentagon who have taken to salping at his peace initiative.

At a Liberal Party fund-raising

dinner in Toronto on Tuesday, the Prime Minister gave every indication that he intends to pursue his initiative.

The dinner, which drew 4,000 party faithful at about \$140 a plate, was billed as "The Last Supper" by many who thought that Mr Trudeau might

use the occasion to signal his imminent departure.

Teasingly, he intimated that his remaining time should be reckoned in years rather than weeks, days or months. "I'm sorry that this will be the last supper for some of you. I'll miss you next year".

Der Spiegel faces court action on Lambsdorff

From Michael Blayon, Bonn

The Bonn Public Prosecutor is considering whether to proceed against the weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* for publishing extracts from the text of the corruption charges against Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister.

The prosecutor has already asked his Hamburg colleague to open investigations into the magazine's latest report on the affair, and to compare this with the text of the official accusations. Lengthy quotation of such charges before a court case is brought is forbidden under German law.

Inquiries are also going on at the Justice Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia to find the source of the leak in the past year, *Der Spiegel* has published long and accurate accounts of the prosecutor's investigations.

Count Lambsdorff, who is accused of accepting bribes from the Flick group of companies in exchange for tax concessions, has made no statement on his future. But after reading the charges, his colleagues in the coalition Government now appear to have rallied behind him, and believe that there is no reason for him to resign.

The Government does not expect the Bonn court to decide before April whether to stage a trial, and coalition circles tend to think that it will decide against doing so. Both the Christian Democrats and the count's colleagues in the Free Democratic Party feel that he would make a fool of himself if he were to resign now, only to have the charges dismissed some months later.

Chancellor Kohl is expected to have a long talk with the count soon and then decide himself whether to keep him in office. The affair was probably also discussed on Tuesday at the Chancellor's meeting with Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Prime Minister.

The affair appears to have had little effect on the Government's popularity, which the latest opinion polls show to be now greater than it was before the debate on the deployment of Nato missiles.

A poll by the Allensbach Institute showed that 50.7 per cent of those asked would now vote for the Christian Democrats and 39 per cent for the Social Democrats. Both the Free Democrats and the Greens did poorly, however.

Ransom demanded for stolen Christ's robe

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

A seamless woollen robe, traditionally believed to be that worn by Jesus Christ on His way to the Cross for which the Roman soldiers drew lots, has been stolen from the St Denis Basilica in Paris, where it has been kept for the past 1,200 years.

An anonymous caller telephoned the Paris newspaper *Libération* on Monday night, before the theft had even been discovered, to demand a "ransom" the release from prison of three alleged members of action directe, an extreme leftist French terrorist group, and the payment out of Roman Catholic church funds of 300,000 francs (£25,000) to the Polish Solidarity movement in return for the robe.

The caller, who sounded excited and not very coherent, said: "The Church can afford to

pay because it has the Prince of Monaco's money. And then, Jesus Christ was a revolutionary who was killed by religious imperialists."

A spokesman for the bishopric of Pontoise, in whose diocese St Denis Basilica lies, said yesterday that it did not intend to interfere in the work of the police.

The robe, which is a dark red-purple color, stained with blood, was extremely fragile and for that reason was shown to the public only once every 50 years, the spokesman said. It was next due to be exhibited in 1984.

Tests undertaken last year showed that the robe dated back to the beginning of the Christian era. It is said to be given by Charlemagne in the year 800 to his daughter Théodora, abbess at Argenteuil.

Pentagon spies hooked on dial-a-porn

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

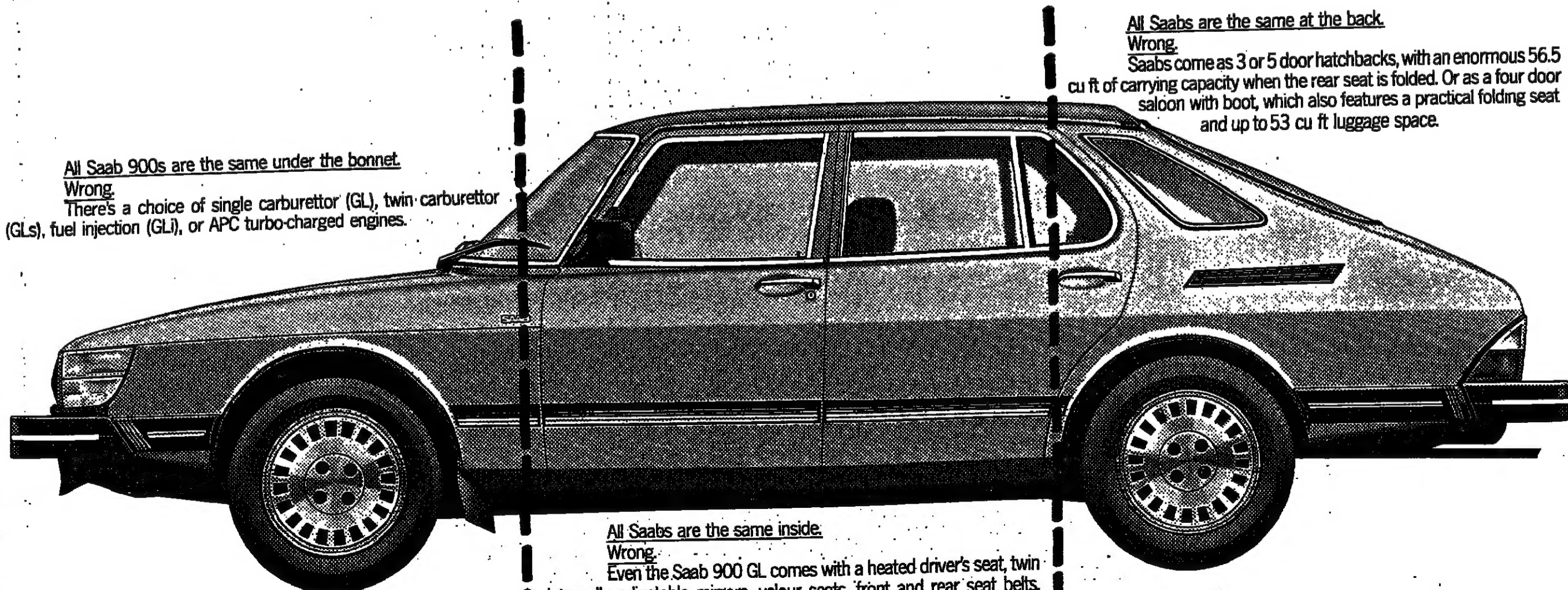
Critics of the Reagan Administration, who have denounced present high levels of defence spending as "obscene", have found that their criticism has been proven in a most unexpected way.

The Defence Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's version of the CIA, has been spending around \$25,000 (£18,000) a month on calls to a New York "dial-a-porn" number.

The Pentagon's Inspector General said in his semi-annual report to Congress that the cost of such unauthorized use of the telephones could be as much as \$300,000 a year.

Following his recommendations, an electronic "block" has been placed on the New York number which is offered by a sex magazine called *High Society* and which provides a recorded message of a woman's voice describing sex acts.

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE OF A SAAB



All Saabs are the same at the back. Wrong.

Saabs come as 3 or 5 door hatchbacks, with an enormous 56.5 cu ft of carrying capacity when the rear seat is folded. Or as a four door saloon with boot, which also features a practical folding seat and up to 53 cu ft luggage space.

All Saab 900s are the same under the bonnet. Wrong.

There's a choice of single carburettor (GL), twin carburettor (GLs), fuel injection (GLi), or APC turbo-charged engines.

All Saabs are the same inside. Wrong.

Even the Saab 900 GL comes with a heated driver's seat, twin internally adjustable mirrors, velour seats, front and rear seat belts, power steering and our unique heating and ventilation system.

The GLs, and the GLi shown here, also feature central locking, 5-speed gearbox, rev counter and wide wheels with low profile tyres. And the Turbo has electric windows, tinted glass, electric mirrors, a heated passenger seat, and luxury upholstery.

While on our top models you can even specify leather upholstery, cruise control and air conditioning.

By now you will have discovered that despite appearances, Saabs can be as individual as you wish. On the other hand, because we never compromise on necessities for sake of appearances, you'll find every Saab has headlamp wash-wipes, daytime running lights, self repairing bumpers, all round asbestos-free disc brakes, one of the strongest passenger safety cages in the automotive world, and as a test drive will prove, front wheel drive and 60% weight over the driven wheels makes a Saab handle like a sports car.

After all this, you might be deceived into thinking that Saabs are expensive. You'd be wrong.

SAAB 900 FROM £7,320.

The Saab 900GL costs £7,320. Model illustrated is Saab 900 GLi 5 door at £9,090. Prices correct at time of going to press and include car tax and VAT. Road fund licence, delivery charges and number plates are extra. Saab (GB) Ltd, Saab House, Feltham Lane, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1LY. Telephone: (0628) 6977. After sales (0604) 43643.

Israel hints officially it will not try to attack or kidnap Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

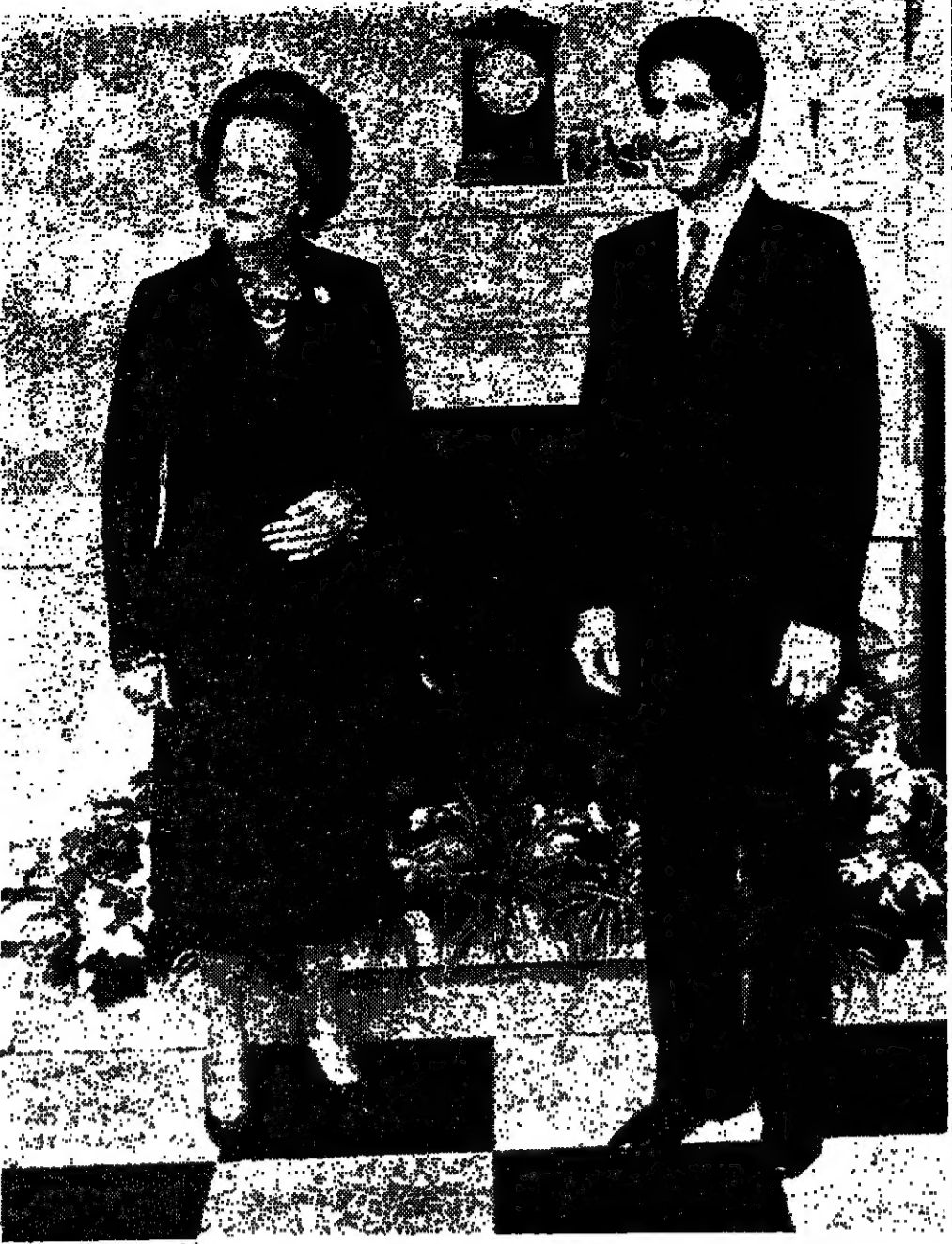
Despite a string of bellicose public statements, the impression was growing yesterday that the Israeli government was not about to attack or kidnap Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organization leader, once he was aboard a foreign ship being evacuated from the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

The first hint of this was given by Mr. David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, who told the French newspaper, *Le Monde*, during an interview in Geneva that the Israeli Government did not "have the least intention of attacking the PLO Men once the evacuation was underway."

There was considerable anger in government circles here at Mr. Levy's claim, which undermined the carefully orchestrated Cabinet policy of maintaining the suspense until the last possible moment by fully refusing to give any public guarantee of the type being requested by a number of foreign governments.

One immediate result of what several observers were describing last night as "Mr. Levy's volte-face" was to further reduce his chances of securing the quick promotion to Foreign Minister which he has been demanding from Mr. Yitzhak Shamir, the man who defeated him in the party vote to find a successor to Mr. Menachem Begin.

Senior officials tried to restore the menacing note of ambiguity to Israel's policy



Downing Street meeting: President Gemayel with Mrs Thatcher yesterday.

Comforting words for Gemayel

Mr. Gemayel's British support was played by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, in his "great" speech in the House of Commons yesterday. The speech was a direct response to the "great" speech given by Mr. Gemayel in the House of Commons yesterday. The speech was a direct response to the "great" speech given by Mr. Gemayel in the House of Commons yesterday.

British MEPs may prevent freeze on £457m rebate

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The European Parliament looks set today to vote to hold up payment of Britain's £457m budget rebate - but a strong lobby by British Euro-MPs of both parties may yet prevent the freeze from being implemented.

The Parliament's own budget committee is recommending that the money is held in reserve and only released against assurances from member-states that it is spent on true Community policies.

The intention is to release it by March, which is Mrs Margaret Thatcher's deadline. This would be after the next European summit, when the Parliament hopes that essential Community reforms can at last be agreed.

For the freeze to be legally agreed, a minimum of 218 Euro-MPs will have to vote in favour of it and last night it seemed unlikely that this total would be reached. The British Conservative and Labour members have joined forces to oppose the move and yesterday evening they were seeking support from their traditional allies in other countries to help them.

But the Conservatives, unlike Labour, are not likely to vote to reject the entire EEC budget for next year. Although many of them were outraged by the attempt to freeze the British money, the advice from Downing Street was that it would be wrong to risk the anger which would be caused if the budget were rejected.

Even so, some Conservative members were so outraged that they were talking last night of voting to reject the budget in protest at what they believed the Parliament had been advised by its committees about the British money.

Hospital ship in Tripoli today

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

An Italian hospital ship, the *Albatros*, is expected to arrive in Tripoli today to evacuate Palestinian wounded from the city. The ship is being escorted by the Greek navy. The ship is being escorted by the Greek navy.

Argentina to put three Presidents on trial

From Douglas Ineydale, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsín has ordered the trial on murder and torture charges of nine leaders of the military regime which seized power in 1976. He also called on Congress to enact a sweeping package of human rights reforms.

Promising to restore the rule of law in Argentina, Senator Alfonsín announced on a broadcast speech on Tuesday night that he had ordered the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to try the first three military juntas which ruled Argentina after the 1976 coup. He said he was also seeking the prosecution of seven left-wing terrorist leaders active during the early 1970s.

"The aberrant human rights violations committed by terrorists and by the repression of them cannot remain unpunished," he said.

The military leaders, who include former Presidents Jorge Videla, Roberto Viola and Leopoldo Galtieri, will be tried by the highest military court for having ordered and planned the campaign of repression against left-wing terrorists from 1976 to 1981. Between 7,000 and 30,000 Argentines are believed to have disappeared after being kidnapped by security forces.

In addition, President Alfonsín summoned an extraordinary session of Congress to consider seven legal reforms which he said were necessary to guarantee the broadest respect for individual rights and the constitutional decision-making process.

At the top of the list of measures is the immediate repeal of an amnesty law passed last September by the outgoing military regime to protect itself from prosecution on charges of human rights violations.

There is also a proposal to establish the same punishment for torture as for murder, and to enact a law to protect democracy and the constitutional order, which sets penalties for any attempt to overthrow an elected government.

By reforming the Code of Military Justice the Alfonsín Government hopes to prevent the trial of civilians by military courts, and to place military officers who commit common crimes under civilian rather than military jurisdiction.

● Diplomatic hope: Mrs Margaret Thatcher's note to President Alfonsín represents a "small light" towards the reestablishment of diplomatic relations. Senator Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, said yesterday.

Poltergeists under suspicion as nanny's mother testifies

From Peter Nichols, Livorno

Carol Compton, the 21-year-old Scottish girl on trial here for attempted murder and arson, watched pale and detached on the third day of hearings as her mother gave evidence about life at home in Aberdeen.

Mrs Pamela Compton, aged 40, was required by the court to answer only two questions. She said she found both of them "degrading". One concerned the quarrelling and the drinking habits of the girl's father, and the second referred to the age when her daughter had her first period.

Before giving this brief testimony Mrs Compton was warned that she was bound to the truth like any other witness, despite the fact that she was the defendant's mother.

Her testimony followed the revival of interest in the possible place of poltergeists in the series of five fires which brought about Miss Compton's arrest in August, 1982 on the island of Elba, and her arraignment before the court of assizes.

Dr Guido Galligani, the presiding judge, asked Mrs Compton to speak clearly and simply, no doubt recalling difficulties in translation on the first day of proceedings. It was Mrs Compton herself who immediately encountered the obstacle of language and had to have the first question repeated.

Asked if she quarrelled in front of her daughter with her father, she replied: "No, he never seen anything bad between me and her father."

About her husband's alcohol problem she said: "No, he didn't have any problems in the mind. He just liked his little drink. When he got a bit tipsy I would send the children down to the grandmother so that I could keep my husband quiet."

In answer to the question about her daughter's first menstruation she said: "I



Miss Compton talking with her mother in court.

remember it very well, as mothers do. It was just before her fourteenth birthday."

Asked if she did not mean when Miss Compton was 16, she said with a certain harsh dignity: "She makes mistakes. I make mistakes. Does this make us stupid?" Apparently during interrogations her daughter had spoken of the age of 16.

Earlier in the day a witness, Signora Ancilla Cecchini, the grandmother of the child whom Miss Compton is said to have tried to kill, recounted strange things that she said had happened at her home on Elba after Miss Compton arrived. A glassplate and a metal cake dish fell to the floor without apparently being touched.

Signora Cecchini recalled the remark she made at the time: "Good heavens, there are spirits in our home."

The hearing continues today.

Germany given grim warning on birthrate

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Unless German women produce 200,000 more babies every year, the German population will fall from 56.9m at present to only 38.3m in less than 50 years, with drastic consequences for defence, education and the labour market.

This warning was given yesterday by the Federal Secretary of the Interior, Hans Eichel, in a speech to the Bundestag. He discussed the demographic situation in Germany and the need for a birthrate of 2.1 children per woman to replace the population.

For the past 30 years the Federal Republic has had the lowest birthrate in the world, and the population has been falling steadily since 1972. The birthrate is now 1.3 children per woman, which is far below the replacement level of 2.1.

The consequences of the falling birthrate will be that the population will be smaller, with 20 per cent of all children being born in 2000, 19 per cent in 2010, and 15 per cent in 2020. This will mean that the number of people in the labour force will be smaller, and that the number of people in the pensioner class will be larger.

The Federal Government has been worried by this, and has been trying to encourage more births. It has offered financial incentives to women who have more than three children, and it has offered financial incentives to couples who have more than two children.

The working women's movement points out that the falling birthrate is a result of the fact that women are working longer hours, and that they are having fewer children. It also points out that the falling birthrate is a result of the fact that women are having children later in life, and that they are having fewer children.

The falling birthrate is a serious problem for Germany, and it is a problem that the Federal Government must deal with. It must find ways to encourage more births, and it must find ways to deal with the consequences of the falling birthrate.

Casamance separatists jailed by Senegal

From Susan Macdonald, Dakar

For the first time in 20 years of Senegalese independence a group of 48 separatists have been brought to court and given sentences ranging from two to five years in jail for disturbing the public order and inciting against the state. Eight defendants were freed.

For a year trouble has been brewing in the southern Casamance region of Senegal where a group of separatists calling themselves the Movement of Democratic Forces for Independence in the Casamance have been agitating. Three policemen were killed last week after it is said, entering a "sacred" area while some form of meeting was in progress.

There are about 500,000 people in the Casamance and a number of them would like to

Kohl 'go it alone' EEC call denied

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday dismissed as "absolutely absurd" reports that the Chancellor Kohl had called for the six founding members of the European Community to go it alone in including European policy.

The spokesman said this was totally at odds with West German policy, which aims at agreement by all Community members, and which supported the package agreement worked out during the German presidency at the Stuttgart summit in the summer.

What the Chancellor now wants from all 10 members was a return to what he called the spirit of Messina, the town in Italy where the six founding members of the European Community agreed to form the Community in 1957.

The spokesman said this was a return to the spirit of Messina, the town in Italy where the six founding members of the European Community agreed to form the Community in 1957.

Zimbabwe sacks white airmen

Harare (Reuters) - Zimbabwe has terminated the employment contracts of three detained white Air Force officers, Mr Eddison Zvobgo, the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, said.

But he told parliament that the officers, detained in August under emergency powers after being accused of helping to sabotage Zimbabwe's main base last year, would receive their pensions and any other money owed to them. The officers are Wing Commander John Cox and Air Lieutenants Barrington Lloyd and Neville Weir.

Christmas pay

Copenhagen (AP) - Fifteen mainly Latin American seamen prepared to fly home considerably richer than expected when a seamen's union agreed to a 20 per cent pay rise.

The seamen's union to share a £20,000 between them. Seamen had threatened to sabotage ferries over Christmas if the money was paid.

Brynnor better

Bombosco, France (AP) - Brynnor, the actor, said that he feels "absolutely fantastic" and is confident that the lung cancer has been cured.

"I'm booked in *The King and I* and we plan a run of about a year."

Baby rescued

Nairobi (AP) - A six-month-old baby buried alive for nearly six days was rescued by a man who dug her from a heap of soil mixed with rubbish and bricks after hearing faint cries. The baby's 17-year-old mother was arrested.

London and Bonn sign war pact

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Bonn and West Germany have signed a wartime pact which will enable Britain to use German military facilities in times of crisis.

The pact, which was signed yesterday, will allow British troops to use German military facilities in times of crisis. It will also allow British troops to use German military facilities in times of crisis.

Runcie reticent

Reading (AP) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, met leaders of the anti-vietnam Chinese Catholic Church during his pilgrimage to China.

Player accused

Stockholm (AP) - A Soviet ice hockey player on a visit to Sweden with his national team, has been charged with stealing £90 worth of goods from a department store. He will appear in court today.

Bargain riot

Johannesburg (AP) - Christmas shoppers crowding to get into a sale at four chain stores crashed through display windows, injuring 30 and causing chaos among the racks. One of the injured was seriously ill.

Detainees freed

Dhaka (Reuters) - General Ershad, Bangladesh's military ruler, ordered the release of 200 political detainees held during recent anti-government unrest.

Fool's gold

Sydney (Reuters) - Australia's largest uncut sapphire was among diamonds, gold and jewels worth more than £2m taken by a confidence trickster who bought a reputable jewelry firm and advertised for gems to be put on exhibition. When he got the jewels he vanished.

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Nakasone puts on white gloves for his most crucial campaign

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

White gloves and loudspeakers are two prominent symbols of how Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) wages an election campaign. Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, made heavy use of both this week on the campaign trail as speculation mounts over how the party will fare in this Sunday's general election.

The main question being asked in Tokyo is not whether the conservative LDP will lose its absolute majority in the Lower House, that seems inevitable. What remains to be seen is how much of a setback Mr Nakasone can absorb without having his position as party leader undermined. He is therefore campaigning hard.

Soon after noon on Tuesday, the Prime Minister's convoy pulled up at the edge of a small park in Chiba city's District One, a LDP stronghold for the conservatives one hour's drive along an impressive industrial belt which stretches eastward along Tokyo Bay from the capital. Chiba illustrates both the LDP's strengths and, paradoxically, why conservatives are their own worst enemies at election time.

White gloves on, Mr Nakasone climbs atop a banner-tensioned campaign bus, flanked by three local LDP candidates. His style is mildly demagogic. He launches a vigorous defence of his policies, laced with appeals to Japanese national pride.

The modest gathering, sprinkled liberally with plainclothes police, is warned that an LDP defeat would undermine Japan's "international credibility".

The crowd responds warmly when the Prime Minister calls for the most thorough reform of the educational system stage the reign of the current Emperor

began 38 years ago, and criticizes the Russians for occupying since the Second World War, four islands off northern Hokkaido.

The nationalist Mr Nakasone was preaching to the converted. But there is trouble in Chiba District One, and in a number of the nation's 130 electoral districts, where the LDP or rather its fiercely competing internal factions have fielded an unusually large number of candidates. In several cases they are competing against each other, and with a raft of "independent" conservatives. This risks splitting the conservative vote to the delight of the opposition.

In Chiba One, the LDP held three of four seats before the election was called. Eight candidates are vying for votes this time. Three are from the LDP and shared the stage with Mr Nakasone. A fourth, former LDP member of the Diet, making a comeback as an independent, may be the spoiler for the party but paradoxically is a member of Mr Nakasone's personal faction.

Jockeying for factional position within the party is most blatant in the case of the Tanaka faction, the biggest in

the LDP, whose leader, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, was more responsible than anyone else for forcing Mr Nakasone, against his better judgment, into a December election in the first place.

Mr Tanaka's conviction on October 12 for taking 500m yen (£14m) in bribes from Lockheed while in office touched off the events which tried, with limited success, to make Mr Tanaka and political ethics into the burning main issue of the election. Mr Tanaka, however, is virtually assured of reelection as an independent (he quit the LDP after being arrested in 1976) in his rural home district.

This sort of internal competition is one reason why the LDP will probably see the stunning 284-seat (out of 511 in the Lower House) majority won three and half years ago whittled down considerably.

In his speeches Mr Nakasone, who is 65, clearly was trying to attract large blocks of floating votes, especially housewives who tend to vote conservative but tend to vote more frequently than men.

At one point, Mr Nakasone urged the generally chauvinistic men of his generation to treat their wives better. "Hold your wife's hand," he implored. He also pledged to channel profits from legalized gambling and other sources into cancer research. For part-time working women, the Prime Minister promised tax breaks.

His favourite theme, however, is moral education. Japan's schools, he says must repeatedly teach young children sound Japanese morals: respect for parents, honesty and respect for ancestors. Whether Japanese voters will teach the LDP a lesson in morals is still difficult to predict.



Mr Nakasone: Appeals to Japanese national pride.



Plea that failed: Mrs Rosella Williams, who is a preacher, with her son Robert, pleading for his life before a Louisiana pardon board last week.

Killer executed in Louisiana

Angola, Louisiana (AP) - Robert Wayne Williams, convicted in the shotgun killing of an elderly supermarket guard during a robbery, was electrocuted early yesterday, the first execution in Louisiana in 22 years.

Williams, aged 31, was put to death at the state prison in Angola after Governor Dave Treen, a federal judge, an appeals court, and the Supreme Court refused to spare his life.

At 1.02 am the prison warden Mr Ross Maggio and guards accompanied Williams on the 100ft walk from the death cell to the shed where the electric chair sits. The switch on the chair was pulled four minutes later and Williams was pronounced dead after nine minutes.

The execution was delayed for about an hour by Governor Treen so the high court could consider a last-minute appeal by Williams's lawyers.

Williams's mother, Mrs Rosella Williams, a short, slender, soft-spoken preacher, joined friends in a prayer vigil outside the prison gates. Family members had testified during pardon board hearings that Williams attended church regularly and sang in the choir. In his teens, they testified, he fell in with the wrong crowd and got involved with drugs.

Meanwhile, a convicted murderer who had been scheduled to die in Georgia's electric chair yesterday was a stay of execution, but a second condemned man in that state lost a late appeal for his sentence.

Australia softens nuclear line

From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

The Federal Government has eased its headline stand on the issue of nuclear vessels using Australian dry dock facilities, and promised to consult with its allies and explain its position in an effort to defuse what has become a highly embarrassing issue for Canberra.

The new guidelines, released on Tuesday, would allow allied ships carrying nuclear arms to go into dry dock in Australia in emergencies. They were outlined after the United States expressed concern over the denial of dry dock facilities to the British aircraft carrier Invincible last week.

Senator Gareth Evans, the Attorney-General and spokesman in the Senate for both the defence and Foreign Ministers, yesterday faced a barrage of questions in the upper house over the Invincible issue. He insisted that the Government's policy was clear but might have to be explained in more detail to Australia's allies.

The Invincible issue and the involvement of the United States is particularly embarrassing to Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, who has been at pains to ally Washington's concern over the election of a Labour government. The Prime Minister has also gone to great lengths on recent overseas trips to stress the importance that Australia attaches to its international defence obligations.

The original decision on the question of Invincible's access to dry dock facilities at the Navy's Garden Island Dockyard, in Sydney harbour, was made by Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister, without reference to Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister.

Mr Scholes has since come under fire from the Opposition, and it is understood that members of the Labour Party caucus are also uneasy about the Invincible decision. There has been speculation that Mr Scholes might be moved from his portfolio.

The issue has given the federal Opposition a field day, allowing it to claim that the Labour Government is damaging both the Anzus Treaty and the five-power defence arrangements which include Australia and Britain.

There is no doubt that the issue has aroused US concern. Mr Stephen Lyne, a senior official at the Embassy in Canberra, saw the head of the Foreign Affairs Department as early as last Saturday, seeking clarification of Australian policy.

America keeps open space station option

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The United States is likely to go ahead with preliminary work on a permanent manned space station. It would provide a base for lunar and planetary exploration and would be a factory for making new materials in a gravity-free environment. It might also have a role in the development of space weapons.

President Reagan is expected to announce funding for planning work on a space station in the budget for the fiscal year beginning October next year. The New York Times reported yesterday.

The sum set aside will be small, between \$70m-£130m, but this will keep the space station option open while the Administration considers whether to commit itself to the huge expense of a full-scale space station programme.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) believes that the success of the nine space shuttle missions has helped to convince the Reagan Administration of the feasibility and desirability of an orbiting station manned by a fulltime crew of astronauts, engineers and scientists.

There are hopes that the President, perhaps in his State of the Union message in January, will set out a commitment to a full-scale space programme and try to arouse public enthusiasm for more exploration, in the manner of President Kennedy's call for a moon landing in the 1960s.

But the space and science world in the United States is divided over the need for a space station. Some scientists say a station's functions could be performed by space shuttles staying in orbit for up to seven weeks at a time.

The question of a full commitment to a space station is being considered alongside that of space weapons following President Reagan's "Star Wars" speech of last March, in which he called for a system of space-based laser weapons able to destroy long-range missiles.

The two projects might have to compete for funds, or the space station might have a weapons development role. But serious doubts have been raised here about the feasibility of "Star Wars" weapons.

Engineers and computer specialists are meanwhile trying to find out what went wrong onboard the space shuttle Columbia last week. It was revealed yesterday that there was a fire and explosion onboard the spacecraft in the last minutes of its journey.

As it approached Edwards Air Force base in California after its 10-day mission, fuel leaked in an auxiliary power unit in the rear of the craft and caught fire when it touched a hot surface.

The next shuttle mission is scheduled for the end of January. It will be delayed if the cause of computer failures in the last mission is not found and rectified.

Spanish Communists face biggest crisis

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Communist Party began its eleventh hour congress here yesterday in a state of complete disarray. Formerly one of Western Europe's most influential and formidable Euro-Communist parties, it is now bogged down in personal conflicts.

In the wake of its humiliating performance in last year's general election, when it received only 3.9 per cent of the popular vote, the party is now split between the followers of Señor Gerardo Iglesias, the 38-year-old General Secretary, and Señor Santiago Carrillo, Spain's veteran Communist leader who personally put the younger man in his job 13 months ago.

Allegations of opportunism and even disobedience have been hurled by the aging and embittered Señor Carrillo at the young general-secretary, whose basic strategy has been to try to win back former party members who were expelled when Señor Carrillo ruled the party with Stalinist methods.

The main task of the more than 800 delegates, between now and Sunday, when the congress ends, will be either to patch together some sort of compromise in the name of party unity, or accept that the split has become too wide to bridge.

Almost pathetically, the 88-year-old Señora Dolores Ibarruri, La Pasionaria of Civil War fame, appealed yesterday to the delegates to find a way through the party's "difficult debate", as she cautiously put it, and avoid even further polarization.

She has never liked Señor Carrillo and is supporting Señor Iglesias who, however, has shown during the past months that he is anything but an inspiring leader.

Truffle scarcity sends prices soaring

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The increasing scarcity of the truffle, known throughout the world for its delicate flavour and alleged aphrodisiac qualities, has caused prices to rocket. The gourmet's "black diamond" is now selling for nearly £70 a pound in France, compared to £45 last year, and prices are expected to rise.

In the Périgord, the best known truffle-producing region in France, the harvest this year is expected to total 3 tons, three times less than last year, and a tiny fraction of the bumper harvests of the 1910s and 1920s when France was producing 1,500 tons of truffles a year.

The main cause of this year's particularly disappointing yield is thought to have been the dry hot summer. But the subterranean fungus, which is unearthed with the aid of pigs or, increasingly, dogs, is a capricious crop at the best of times, and has long resisted man's attempts to cultivate it, though man continues to try.

Over the past few years, farmers in the Dordogne and other calcareous regions have been planting young oak trees, among whose roots the truffle loves to grow.

France can no longer meet its own demand and now imports between 50 and 80 tons of truffles a year.

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When our first 'Think British' advertisement appeared in The Times, it did more than just make people think.

In fact, the response it provoked was such that there are now 46 companies with their names on our list of supporters.

They are there not out of any patriotic sentimentality, but because the Think British Council is proposing a way to support British industry and reduce unemployment which is not only totally practical and ingeniously simple, but which is based on exhaustive economic research.*

The aim is to persuade every family in Britain to re-channel £3 of their normal weekly expenditure into buying British made products rather than foreign ones.

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are changing, as some recent research by Gallup indicates.**

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In a word, enormous.



No less than 350,000 new jobs created during the first 24 months alone and with longer term benefits to follow that would put Britain right back on its feet.

So you see, further decline and larger dole queues are not inevitable. To make sure they don't happen perhaps you'd like to add your company's name to our list.

Think about it. But for everyone's sake please don't take too long. Because we have the solution but we don't have the time.

To find out more about the 'Think British' campaign, the very real impact it's already had with manufacturers and consumers alike and how you can support it, write now to either of our Directors—Margaret Charrington or Simon Preston—at Tower House, Southampton Street, London WC2E 7EQ or telephone 01-379 3307.

*The values are based on the findings of the Think British Council in the last two years. See page 12.

**Gallup research conducted by Gallup Ltd, New York.

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مكتبة من الأصل

THE ARTS

After a period out in the cold, pantomime looks to be back in favour in London: *Aladdin*, *Babes in the Wood*, *Snow White*, *Peter Pan*... and, opening at the National Theatre tonight, *Cinderella*. This last is designed by William Dudley, interviewed below by John Higgins; while (right) our critics sample the joys of some of the latest offerings around the town

The 'Star Wars' of its time

Not for the National the television stars taking their annual bite at the stage or the fading divas of the cinema glad for a little work. Instead, according to their designer, William Dudley, they have been directing their attention to the Drury Lane Theatre at the heart of the century, when the panto really was the event of the year. Dudley, who has always been a great ferret among archives and old volumes for his scenic inspiration, has been rummaging through Drury Lane prompt books and through the existing designs of Wilhelm, whom he reckons to have been the master of pantomime decoration.

"If you look at a Wilhelm panto, such as *Jack and the Beanstalk*, there is everything there from a coloured postcard to an imitation of Turner. Some of the scenes have a wonderful quality, but I think it has been overlooked that they put every available resource into the panto. In the 1890s it was quite usual to have 500 to 600 people employed in the theatre in one capacity or another. There were legions of poorly paid craftsmen. You took urinals off the street, put them into costumes so that they became elves - or something similar - and gave them a pittance. You can't do that now, thank goodness - although I wouldn't say that the fees at the National were exactly generous. And sometimes, when I go through those Drury Lane prompt books, I wonder just what we can expect them to do. The answer, probably, is nothing.

Dudley agrees that the proscenium arch dictated the shape of every late Victorian set, giving the audience what he describes as "tunnel vision". "They were great at framing and at softening edges, whether of pictures or of ladies' clothes. But I think it has been overlooked that they put every available resource into the panto. In the 1890s it was quite usual to have 500 to 600 people employed in the theatre in one capacity or another. There were legions of poorly paid craftsmen. You took urinals off the street, put them into costumes so that they became elves - or something similar - and gave them a pittance. You can't do that now, thank goodness - although I wouldn't say that the fees at the National were exactly generous. And sometimes, when I go through those Drury Lane prompt books, I wonder just what we can expect them to do. The answer, probably, is nothing.

"In those days the panto was at the very forefront of technical innovation. It wasn't something thrown on at the end of a busy year, as it is now. On the contrary, it was the *Star Wars* of its time, where you used every new invention. We're putting in gas footlights at the Lytleton, because that is what a 1980s audience will expect, but a theatre proud of its panto would certainly have had electricity. Otherwise we're looking at the



William Dudley on his set for *Cinderella*

time before Dan Leno died and cinema took over the art of spectacle. *Cinderella* uses 30 dropcloths, many of which will have been painted in the workshops of the Old Vic, erstwhile home of the National. It is one of the few theatres - Covent Garden and Sadler's Wells are among the others - which still has vertical paint frames where the canvas can be hauled up and down. Most others have gone over to the European method of spreading the raw material on the floor and having the scene painters get down on their hands and knees. Dudley, though, reckons that the use of the vertical frame will help him produce the effects he wants.

All this looks a little far away from Bayreuth, where William Dudley spent the first half of the year designing the controversial *Ring* staged by Peter Hall. Or is it?

"Actually not. Opera, more than any other form of theatre, has retained the old craft of painted scenery, of a filled and highly decorated stage. I suppose in our

time Lila di Nobile took the painted image just as far as it could be taken. She reached her apex in this country, it is thought, in the Stratford *Twelfth Night* and you can still come across eyes moistening over at the very mention of it. I didn't see that, but I did see *Love for Love* at the Old Vic. Then, inevitably, in the straight theatre the reaction set in: there were no cut gauzes and cut cloths any more, just a few props on a bare stage.

"So opera has been very much at the front of my mind while I've been working on *Cinderella*. Indeed, at times *Cinderella* is almost a pastiche of the rococo, so it is rather convenient that I'm also starting designs on a new *Rosencavalier* for Covent Garden. Much opera and much panto is concerned with a sudden welling of the emotion. And maybe that's why both are so much in favour at the moment.

"In Bayreuth we used to talk about the *Ring* as the thinking man's panto. And it was a phrase which stuck."

Computer failure

Abacadabra
Lyric, Hammersmith

The first video fairy tale to hit the London stage, this show is aimed at the non-theatre-going, computer-wise generation; and by featuring such chart-toppers as Elaine Paige and B. A. Robertson in a strong company including Sylvester McCoy and Phil Daniels (plus some excellent dancers) it is out to spread its net as well as break new ground.

Adapted from a French source, David Wood's book attempts a marriage of magic and technology through the story of a young girl who meets with Aladdin, Cinderella, Pinocchio and the Beast and join them on their journey to the castle of Sleeping Beauty. The route lies through an enchanted forest heavily guard-

ed by the witch Carabosse (doubling as a teacher in the opening scene) whose minions lie in wait to manacle intruders into their mistress's video circuits for transmission in the ever-popular Carabosse Super-show.

Jenny Tiramani's forest is a maze of fluorescent silver tubes, with lamps and monitor screens hanging like exotic fruit, and the costumes of video bandits (led by the crackling Miss Paige in black body-stocking and high boots) strike a corresponding note of high-tech fascist glamour in contrast with the humbly traditional garb of the travellers. Abba's repetitiously pulsating music has the effect of nullifying Don Black lyrics, but atmospherically it is perfectly in key with the rest of Peter James's production.

Two things scupper the show. First, theatre cannot perform a full electronic operation in the



Elaine Paige: high-tech crackle

style of Disney's *Tron*. No hard-core computer audience is going to be fobbed off with an array of panto props no matter how they may wink and bleep. Secondly, by leading the story back to the primacy of traditional fairy tales

and magic, *Abacadabra* is doing a hard-selling job for the pre-electronic age which is unlikely to win any converts from the space invasion tables.

Irving Wardle

Beauty and the Beast

Shame on me for taking all these years to get round to a Victorian delight of the Players' Theatre. I can happily report that, once through that unassuming doorway under the arches at Charing Cross, it is as much fun as I had always been told.

The Christmas fare is a genuine Victorian panto preceded by a quick selection of music-hall "joys". Miss Josephine Gordon sings "Lead me your fairy wand". Miss Wendy Jones invites Esau to take her on the sea-saw, and a period MC briskly leads a few choruses crying "Raise the roof, and to hell with the London Chatham and Dover Railway" - which then takes traditional revenge by rumbling deafeningly all through the pantomime.

Written by J. R. Planché for Covent Garden in 1841, some years after the libretto for Weber's *Oberon* for which he is best known, this *Beauty* is a "grand comic-romantic-operatic-melodramatic fairy extravaganza" (a category even Plevinsky never thought of).

Cleverly-turned rhyming couplets, packed with puns, rub

shoulders with numbers set to a gagbag of current operatic favourites.

Beauty is saddled, Cinderella-wise, with two nasty sisters and an impoverished papa called Sir Aldgate Pump living in a Gothic folly in Brixton. Lurking in a lair plentifully supplied with modish gowns and turtle soup, Beast has a splendidly horrid mask, but sings a plaintive bit of *Der Frischschütz* and is clearly a perfect gentleman.

Though partial rewriting and rescoring affects the style, Reginald Woolley's production is sharp and neat, knowing just how far to go. The women outshining the men, with Alexandra Sebastian's *Beauty* and Germaine Arthur's *Fairy Queen* soaring up among the legions and Maureen Brathwaite's purely brilliant tones head too briefly as the Beast's page. Julia Sutton and Jenny Wren make a wonderfully vain, rapacious pair of uglies, relishing the prospect of *Beauty's* cannibalistic demise with a chortling patter duet borrowed from *Don Pasquale*, and Josephine Gordon reappears as a benign but eccentric Morning Zephyr, nagging a reluctant chorus of roses to wake up and start blooming. Riotous and recommended.

Anthony Masters

by Robert Flaherty on the way to persuading them to put up the money for a film unit which, he told them, was just the thing for propaganda. "A tremendous personality", remembered Basil Wright, the EMB Film Unit in 1933 and, after the outbreak of war, the Crown Film Unit.

An interesting witness was a former Special Branch man, Mr Arthur Cain, who was assigned to keep an eye on the filmmakers whose left-leaning politics worried authority. He became fascinated by the business himself, being transformed into a "friendly bridge". His wife concurred. She had been John Grierson's secretary.

Dennis Hackett

Television

Rich reminiscence

It was a programme of much rich reminiscence from Mr W. Basil Wright, Stuart Legg, Edgar Anstey and others who laboured with great invention and success in the John Grierson school. The excellent clips told their own story and one wondered if documentary had really progressed at all. Though it is one perceived the formidable figure to Grierson.

It was he who persuaded a group of dignitaries from the Empire Marketing Board to gather and watch Eisenstein's *Potemkin* and documentaries

what they were going to shoot before they shot it. For *Night Mail* they had Benjamin Britten for the score and W. H. Auden for the script. Auden, said Mr Watt, had often had to rewrite but had been uncompromising. He now regretted having thrown so much of Auden's work into the wastepaper basket but recalled one line for posterity. Talking of the rounded hills which mark the approach of Scotland, Auden had written that they were "heaped like slaughtered horses".

Galleries

Restoration rights

The Clarendon Gallery, Vigo Street, has a fascinating loan show devoted to Cavaceppi (until December 22). And what, you might ask, are Cavaceppi? They are in fact not what you think. Cavaceppi was the leading sculpture restorer of his day, which was the mid-eighteenth century. At that time no stigma at all seems to have attached to elaborate restoration, sometimes amounting to total remodelling, of ancient sculpture; on the contrary, it was expected, and dealers in Italy found it very difficult to sell their discoveries, either at home or abroad, until they had been returned to a semblance of completeness.

This often meant adding a head or a limb, and at any rate the replacement of a nose or some other equally important detail. And, for that, Cavaceppi was your man. He had an enormous workshop, and ended up immensely rich, from virtually giving up original classical sculpture and concentrating on patching genuine antiques. Many of his works in this line found their way to Britain, and the present show offers a fine selection, with an elaborate and scholarly catalogue which explains exactly what Cavaceppi did to which, including such famous pieces as the *Dog of Abolides* from Duncombe Park and the Lansdowne *Diskobolos*, transformed by Cavaceppi with an ancient but unrelated head and modern additions into Diomedes carrying off the Palladium. A small but important chapter in the history of taste is vividly illustrated.



Cavaceppi's transformation of the *Diskobolos*

Knoedler/Kasmin offers a small show of recent work by Gillian Ayres, supplementary to the big show at the Serpentine Gallery (until January 8). The Serpentine show too is mostly of work from the last two years, and both afford us the opportunity of admiring the confidence with which Ayres disposes large amounts of brightly coloured oil-paint on vivid abstract canvases with titles referring them, and us, to perennial literary themes. The earlier paintings which preface the Serpentine show offer a useful quick guide to how she arrived at this point, by way of thinner, more watery acrylic paintings getting ever farther away from any appreciable representational base.

John Russell Taylor

Hongkong: Eighth Festival of Asian Arts

Marriage of East and West, old and new

Investment and confidence may be draining out of Hongkong, but the network of bamboo scaffolding over island and peninsula grows ever thicker as the deafening work of construction continues day and night. Shops, hotels, banks, metro-lines - anything that promises consumer returns still grows upwards and outwards, and in Hongkong that includes, very high on the list, temples of entertainment.

Over the past year two large multipurpose arenas have sprouted: the Kowloon Cultural Centre, an ingenious, convertible 3,000-seat open-air and indoor auditorium built on an old quarry site in the To Kwa Wan area of Kowloon, and the 12,500-seat Coliseum, a vast inverted pyramid poised on top of the Kowloon-Guangzhou railway terminal. Both, like the proposed Tsimshatsui cultural complex, are projects of the urban council, and both opened just in time to house several events in the council's Eighth Festival of Asian Arts.

The eyes of the dragon were duly dotted, acrobats tumbled, puppets squawked, and Cantonese opera, as popular as *Crossroads*, *The Archers* and *Gilbert and Sullivan* put together, drew reliably large crowds.

The Sonal Mansingh Dance Group from India presented performances from the north and south: *Odissi*, the sensuous, lyrical, curving dance of the north-east coast, with its *Hindustani* music, and *Bharata Natyam*, the more angular, strong-footed dances of *Tanjore* in the south, accompanied by the Tamil music of the Carnatic tradition, zither, flute, and drum vibrating in a dense counterpoint of rhythm with the singer's nonsense syllables and the dancer's forceful footwork.

Sonal Mansingh, director of the Centre for Indian Classical



Sonal Mansingh: "India's Atarah Ben-Tovim"

Dance in Delhi, is something of an Atarah Ben-Tovim of Indian dance and music: her encyclopaedic and eclectic knowledge, powerfully projected in word and movement, relies on considerable dramatic and narrative extension, a certain de-centring from the concentrated inner physical and spiritual energies of the pure practice of the *Narya Shastri*. To balance and reinvigorate programming of primarily popular appeal, the festival's new coordinator, Choi Suk-kuen, is deliberately seeking out those groups who attempt to assimilate experimental, avant-garde, often clearly western influences into their own traditions. Although his production of *East Wind*, a

90-minute music-and-dance drama, as yet makes some of its points about alienation and cultural suffocation rather crudely, the work of the Indonesian director and ethnomusicologist Sardonio Kusono was particularly memorable.

Sardonio's concern with the dying musical traditions of the Land Dayaks has led him to work with his students in the jungle villages of East Borneo, and Dayaks has led him to himself to Jakarta, and now to Hongkong, to take part in his productions. The result is a gradual revitalization of the Dayak's traditional dance and music and a lively integration of their distinctive slow, swirling, squatting dance movements and gentle flute and zither music with the electro-acoustic and cinematic invention of the company's own composer and scenographer.

Sardonio's syncretic approach, with its exploitation, disruption and modification of traditional forms and rituals, has made him a somewhat controversial figure. No less so is Ramon Obusan from the Philippines, who, like Sardonio, uses his folkloric troupe as a showcase for his research as a musicologist and anthropologist at the University of Manila.

If the Festival of Asian Arts is turning its face increasingly far forward in its programming of visiting groups, then its confidence for the more immediate future with neighbouring dramatists and musicians in the People's Republic of China seems no less optimistic. As more and more performing arts companies are being established in the cities of mainland China, so in Hongkong pianists like Yin Chengzong and orchestras and opera groups from Beijing and Shanghai are warmly received.

The festival's coup this year was bringing the Shanghai

Kunju Opera Troupe. *Kunju* is the oldest, most sophisticated form of classical opera in China, from which both Peking and Cantonese opera have evolved. It had its beginnings as a refined, elite form in the sixteenth century and, thanks to the pioneering and continuing work of the troupe's director, the 80-year-old Yu Zhenfei, is now rising from centuries of neglect, and more lately persecution at the hands of Jiang Qing to a new popularity.

Hilary Finch

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LPO/Handley

Festival Hall

Vaughan Williams called *Job* "a masque for dancing" to describe it from the sophistry of ballet, and to restore a religious purpose to dance in the theatre. Whether there or in concert form, his identity of inner vision with the William Blake engravings which were his inspiration brought absolute integrity of character to the music, and Vernon Handley was concerned for us to accept this in his eloquent performance with the London Philharmonic Orchestra on Tuesday.

Disposing his strings with the first and second violins on either side (as the score's dedicatee, Sir Adrian Boult, always preferred), Mr Handley directed a shared concern for the music's distress of utterance for the existence of Good and Evil as contending forces, a difference between diatonic concord and angry discord. The harmonic basis for *Job* has a way of transcending simplicity

with poetry that is peculiarly its own.

The minutest for *Job's* family with its echoes of Ravel needed more tauness of rhythm, but otherwise the explicit visual images, the radiant Saraband of the Sons of God, the Pavane of the Heavenly Host, the displaced accents and angry clashes of Satan's music, were vividly presented. David Nolan's warmly lyrical solo violin for Eliza's dance was the most notable of several exposed instrumental passages played with keen effect.

John Lill was another soloist of distinction in a warmly romantic account of Rachmaninov's C minor Piano Concerto, picking up from a strangely ponderous opening and some trusty ensemble passages early in the first movement to make a virtue of familiarity in the rest of the work. Expressive phrasing was matched by the orchestra, who brought vigorous if sometimes raucous spirit to Dvorak's *Carnival* overture at the start of the programme.

Noël Goodwin

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Sweet talk in Grosvenor Square

The Times Profile US Ambassador Charles Price

Charles H. Price II Born April 1 1931, Kansas City, Missouri Educated: Wentworth Military Academy
1953 Graduated University of Missouri
1955-55 Military service, US Air Force Various Chairman and President, American Bancorporation; Chairman, American Bank and Trust Company of Kansas City; President and Director, Linwood Securities; Chairman and Director, American Mortgage Company; Director, American Inc.; Director, Swanson Broadcasting; Director, Earle M. Jorgensen; Member, World Business Council and the International Institute for Strategic Studies
They have five children: Pickett, Charles Blair, Caroline, Melissa and Charles III
1981 Appointed Ambassador to Brussels
1983 Appointed Ambassador to London

Charles Price, President Reagan's choice as new ambassador to Britain - who presents his credentials to the Queen on Tuesday - arrived in London only a few weeks before millions of British television viewers saw his home town of Kansas City, Missouri, annihilated in a nuclear blast during the film, *The Day After*.

The film was of course fictional, but the debate it engendered in the US, and to which it added in the UK, will have prepared Price for the issue likely to dominate the first months of his term in Grosvenor Square: the deployment of nuclear-tipped cruise missiles in Britain.

As US ambassador to Belgium for the past 2½ years, he has become familiar with European views of the great missile debate, having seen at first hand the passions aroused by deployment of the new medium-range missiles.

He had previously been unfamiliar with the subject. In his previous life as candy king and Kansas City banker he had not had much to do with missiles. But in Brussels he showed himself a quick learner, not just about nuclear policy but also about the finer points of diplomacy, including how to get along with tricky Europeans.

Belgians say unofficially that they have unhappy memories of politically appointed US ambassadors down the years, recalling with particular anger a former ambassador who was a keen drinker and needed a special watch to prevent his being embarrassingly arrested. They looked forward to the arrival of Price, the Candy Kid, with apprehension. To their amazement he was a glutton for work who desperately wanted to prove himself as a diplomat.

Whereas in the past the number two in the US Embassy had been the one with the main dealings with the Belgian foreign ministry, suddenly they found him demanding meeting after meeting to discuss complex points.

At his recent Senate confirmation hearing, Price - who is known to his friends as "Charlie" rather than the overly-familiar "Chuck" - showed himself well-informed when questioned about the Geneva INF talks and Britain's own nuclear deterrent. He made it clear he would use "each occasion that I have to try to bring home the message of sincerity that we feel toward the elimination of nuclear weapons".

Price will take over America's premier ambassadorial post at a time when relations between the US and Britain are undergoing a period of uncharacteristic strain. Mrs Thatcher was miffed by the lack of consultation over the US-led invasion of Grenada and is angered by US moves to resume arms sales to Argentina. The Americans have been no less upset by Britain's attitude to its action in Grenada, particularly the thinly disguised wave of anti-Americanism this appears to have unleashed among some British political leaders.

Though Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan see eye to eye on the deployment of cruise, many Britons are strongly opposed to the new weapons, a factor which will affect defence ties between the two countries for the foreseeable future.

Price will also be taking over in the middle of a presidential term, itself unusual. He is replacing Mr John Louis, one of the least distinguished of recent US ambassadors to London.



Charles Price: quick learner in the art of diplomacy. Photograph by Harry Kerr

Though a pleasant man and a gracious host, his political impact in Britain was limited. His failure to return to London from a golfing holiday in Florida until 10 days after the Falklands War started earned him the epithet "The Invisible Man".

Just how out of touch he had become was demonstrated during a dinner party given by a member of the royal family, attended by Mrs Thatcher and himself, on the eve of the Grenada

invasion. Mrs Thatcher was called away and returned to Downing Street to receive a call from President Reagan. Louis remained at the table and did not find out until hours later what was happening.

Price will not allow a similar situation to occur. He has a reputation for hard work and for immersing himself in whatever he is doing. As Senator John Danforth, a long-time friend put it: "He is smart. He is

diplomatic. He is a person who throws himself into his job."

Though he had never been to Belgium before, spoke no French and had never been a diplomat, he served said Senator Danforth, "with distinction and skill" in Brussels.

It was noted that he was running his embassy rather than leaving that to the professional diplomats. Leo Tindemans, the foreign minister, was only too happy to talk to him (Tindemans is only too happy to talk to anyone who will listen, of course) but he found that it was useful to have the ear of someone who had the ear of the White House.

Price is now 52, well over 6ft tall and is a classic product of Middle America. He inherited a family confectionery business in Kansas City, ran it well, branched into banking and made a lot of money. Though he is not rich on the scale of, say, Walter Annenberg - a close friend and a former ambassador to London - he had enough of it to enable him to become a leading contributor to the President's election campaign, and that is how the top ambassadorships are obtained in the US.

He was also fortunate in marrying a rich, attractive and intelligent wife. Carol Price is the daughter of a frozen-food manufacturer from Omaha, Nebraska (where she was the "Aksarben Queen" for two years, "Aksarben" being Nebraska spelled backwards). In Brussels, she had three rooms in the residence to house her wardrobe of gowns. (The removers also packed 275 of Price's suits.) A graduate from Stanford University, Mrs Price became a friend of Annenberg before he went to London as the Nixon Administration's ambassador.

Through the Annenbergs, the Prices met the Reagans at the Annenbergs' estate in Palm Springs, California. For many years the families spent New Year's Eve together and when Reagan decided to run for president, Price was one of his leading fund-raisers in Kansas City.

Politically, Price has similar views to Reagan and will have no difficulty with the President's foreign and domestic policies when he is in London. Socially, he is described as very personable - outgoing and cultivated. He is also said to be the soul of discretion who is always careful not to put a foot wrong.

Nicholas Ashford

Cocaine is the new, hugely profitable, merchandise of the racketeers. Its corrupt influence is now undermining the political stability of those countries that produce it

The deadly road to Narcolandia

Bogotá President Fernando Belaunde Terry regards it as the biggest single threat to the security of his country and its neighbours. A Bolivian intellectual warns of a dormant empire striking back, of vengeful gods, of a coming apocalypse. The United States ambassador in Colombia draws an analogy between Latin America today and Germany in the 1930s. Cuban President Fidel Castro says it is a "blatant knowingly-made lie" that he has anything to do with it.

The spark triggering these diverse observations? The South American cocaine racket, or "Narcolandia" as it has been punningly dubbed in a region which delights in word play. The name is apt enough since it not only defines the merchandise but also a vast territory extending north to south down the continent's Pacific limb.

The racket is not new but suddenly it is arousing very real alarm due to its pervasive growth, its corruptive influence, its links with subversive groups on the left and political movements on the right, and a general perception that it has grown too big, too powerful and too dangerous in a region crippled by foreign debt and suffering the worst depression in half a century.

Each year it is estimated that at least 20 tons of cocaine are

smuggled into the United States via the "Colombian connexion" network. That represents 80 per cent of the cocaine consumed annually in the US. Nobody has ever put a figure on its value, except that it is several times more than the 1.5 billion US dollars that Colombia earns from coffee, officially its top export.

Now that the bottom has started to fall out of the marijuana racket due to the spectacular growth of pot cultivation in North America, the "Mafiosi" are concentrating almost exclusively on cocaine. Coke has traditionally been an up-market drug but the racketeers plan to change that through mass production, converting cocaine into a popular classless drug similar to marijuana in the 1970s.

Cocaine is refined in laboratories in Colombia from paste flown in from the highland regions where the coca plant has always grown. Similar laboratories exist on a much smaller scale in the northern Argentine province of Salta which borders Bolivia and is strategically placed for packaging the stuff off to

Buenos Aires, or to Chile's more adjacent Pacific ports, for export.

Although the US remains the principal market, a current cocaine glut is turning Europe, including Britain, into an increasingly important second market. Indeed, a Colombian journalist recently reported from London that Heathrow has now become as unpleasant for Colombian passport holders as Miami or New York because of the endless questioning by suspicious Customs officers.

It is no coincidence that "Narcolandia" closely mirrors the same Andean domain of the pre-Colombian Inca Empire. The cultivation of the coca plant was part of Inca culture: they chewed its leaves as an antidote against the cold of high altitudes. Following the Spanish conquest attempts were made to forbid its cultivation after a priest charged that it was an "ally of Satan" which made the Indians resist Christian teaching.

Five hundred years later, the eccentric Bolivian intellectual Amado Canelas argues that "cocaine is an instrument of historical vengeance" through which traditional Andean society is taking belated revenge, not only against the *Conquistadores* who violated the innocence of a Garden of Eden continent, but also against more recent North American influences.

Belaunde Terry is not alone among South American intellectuals in claiming that the grandeur of the Inca Empire, centred in Peru, rivalled that of the Romans. Today he warns of the dangers of the New Empire: "Our democracies are doubly threatened by the perversion and the narcotics traffic. It is clear that in countries like Colombia and Peru narcotics are the principal source of the financing of subversion."

Specifically he charges that the Colombian April 19 Movement and the Sendero Luminoso terrorists in Peru are receiving arms and "aurodollars" from the racketeers. Furthermore, he claims there exists "close contact" between the Italian Mafia and South American racketeers. The aim of these alliances is, in the Peruvian president's view, to fuel subversion in a bid to trigger military takeovers, ousting good democrats like himself and Colombian President Belisario Betancur Cuartas who are trying to curb the racket.

Alarm over the drug trade is greatest in Colombia and not just because of its ties with subversion. Colombia has suddenly discovered that for the first time it has a serious drug problem among young people.

Colombian "Mafiosi" have long been the empire builders of "Narcolandia". As enterprising as ever, they are trying to shed their dependency on paste from Peru and Bolivia and are now cultivating the coca plant on a massive scale in Colombia. At the same time they clearly intend not only to keep North American addicts supplied but also create a

South American market for "bazuko", a cheap and extremely dangerous form of cocaine base variously mixed with marijuana and tobacco. They have pinpointed teenagers with the aim of establishing a permanent long-term domestic market. The smoking of "bazuko" is now catching on fast in other countries, most notably Peru.

Shocked by the destructive effect of "bazuko" on increasing numbers of young people, Colombia's courageous Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla has launched a wide-ranging investigation which has resulted in a wave of arrests, confiscation of planes suspected of smuggling and the uprooting of large acreages of marijuana and coca crops. Journalists, judges and even priests who have investigated the racket in the past have been murdered and many wonder how long Lara Bonilla can avoid a bullet.

In the United States Embassy in Bogotá Ambassador Lewis Tambs looks on approvingly. The urbane Mr Tambs is not a career diplomat but an academic specializing in Latin American affairs. His nomination as ambassador was fiercely opposed by US liberals and many Colombians, because of his well-known opposition to the Panama Canal treaties, his general hard-line views, and disparaging remarks from his past, like the time he dismissed many Latin American

countries as no more than "a flag, a football team and a seat at the United Nations".

For six months since his arrival in the Colombian capital, he has never missed an opportunity to warn in grammatically correct if heavily-accented Spanish of the perils posed by the Soviet Union and its Cuban proxies. Now suddenly in something resembling a major revelation, he has been alerted to "Narcolandia".

Noting the links between drug money and certain fascist-style movements in Colombia and elsewhere in the region, he has told the Bogotá daily *El Tiempo* that "Latin America today reminds me of Germany in the 1930s when the criminals - that's to say, the Nazis - came to power" he has diplomatically added that at least in Colombia "the people will never let it happen". *El Tiempo* is a respected liberal newspaper and Tambs seems to have used the interview to try to soften his image.

Ironically, the "Mafiosi" are every bit as anti-communist and conservative as Mr Tambs. They also happen to be decidedly anti-imperialist. Says one: "The Gringos have robbed us of our national resources, one after another, gold, silver, bronze, tin, and tomorrow, no doubt, our gas. Now they want to give us a bad conscience about coca.... but

why should we feel guilty about the drug addiction and degeneration of the North Americans?"

So speaks Roberto Suarez Gomez, otherwise known as Bolivia's "King of Cocaine" and affectionately as "Papito", or reverently as "Su Santidad", in the Bolivian region of Beni, his personal fiefdom. Protected by his own private army, he survives and prospers despite the exit last year of his military friends, whom he helped enrich while in power, and despite the start of another of Bolivia's periodic flirtations with democracy.

In La Paz the civilian government does not fear revolutionary guerrillas but rather the perpetual threat of military takeover. There are a number of officers exiled in Buenos Aires who are nostalgic for a recent past when they ruled the "coca republic", and there are reports that "Papito" is now trading coca for arms across the Argentine frontier, to bring them back.

Mr Tambs is said to be very good at briefing his Washington friends on the Soviet-Cuban threat, but how could he articulate the threat of "Narcolandia" as outlined by Amado Canelas?

If the "Apocalypse of cocaine" is let loose, he says, the Inca Gods will then prove that they have "defeated Jesus Christ because the soul of the Indians, today as yesterday, belongs to them."

Geoffrey Matthews



Masked men pour coca paste into bags ready for refining, protected by armed guards

moreover...
Miles Kingston

Versed in paste-up poetry

I never really believed that story about the 12 chimpanzees who, if they were taught to type, would sooner or later come up with a Shakespeare play. For one thing, the laws of chance would make them produce something shorter first, and Socky Law would ensure it was a Pam Ayres poem. For another, the 12 chimps would go their own way long before then as writers always do - one to take to drink, another to become a *Sunday Times* book reviewer, two to produce a musical based on King Kong and so on.

In any case, there is a much better example of random literature to hand. Twenty years ago the French novelist Raymond Queneau produced a small book called *Cent Mille Milliards de Poèmes*, containing ten 14-line sonnets. Each page was cut deeply between each line so that different lines from different poems could be combined to make a new poem - the first line of the first poem, the second of the third, for instance, and so on. (A completely random poem could be made by sliding a knitting needle up through the book, wiggling it about a bit.) As each sonnet had exactly the same rhyme scheme, each new sonnet was a proper sonnet and as far as Queneau could ensure it, even obeyed grammatical rules.

He calculated that the total number of sonnets available to the dedicated knitting needle wielder was ten, to the power of 14, or one hundred million million, and that reading them non-stop would take 190,258,751 years. I calculated when I first came across the book that it would not be a bestseller and that no one would ever translate it into English.

I was only right about the first, because *One Hundred Million Poems* has just been published by the translator John Crombie in Paris, and a stupendous achievement it is too, gloriously, idiotically successful.

At six the sahib dons fresh laundered hose.
(Of muggers all wise rusties are afraid)
The "Oh" he cries - and adds two faint "Oh Not's"
While vultures swooping low give fiftful shade.

That's the first four lines of a new poem I have just created at random. Quite atmospheric, if not world-class, but what I like best about it is that it is a totally new poem. Let's try again.

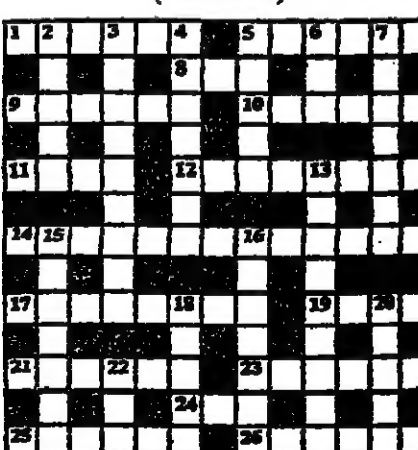
The gaucho dreams of bareback rodeos
And downs his first gin-fizz (or lemonade)
He wipes the guano off his black boot toes
While vultures swooping low give fiftful shade.

It's those vultures again, but as it's a different context they seem like different vultures, and we're off a new direction. Quite honestly, I'd much rather be playing with the book than writing about it, especially as John Crombie has decided to make it a joy to handle - it's hand-set, printed on thick cream paper and bound with an intricate white ribbon. And limited to 500 copies.

From the same hands comes another Queneau book, *Un Conte à Voire Façon* or *Your for the Telling*, a tiny children's tale with multi-choice development. Page one reads: "Would you like to read the tale of the three sprightly page? If so, turn to page four; if not, turn to page two." Turn to page two and you find: "Would you prefer the tale of the three tall, lanky beanpoles? If so turn to page 16; if not, turn to page three." Of course, one goes through reading every variation, and very funny most of them are. This book is lavishly decorated by Sheila Bourne and is just as much pleasure to handle as *One Hundred Million Poems*.

Anyone who wants further information about these two books (but especially the poems) should write without delay to John Crombie at Kicksaw, 13 rue de la Grande Chaumière, 75004 Paris. Meanwhile, if you care to cut up this piece into different lines, then shuffle it into a different order, you could enter it for the Booker Prize next year.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 224)



- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Priest (6) | 2 Make void (5) |
| 3 Irregular spot (6) | 3 Temporary (9) |
| 4 Likely arrival time (11,11) | 4 Rebutal (7) |
| 5 Opening fastening (6) | 5 Fundamental (5) |
| 6 African journey (6) | 6 Not on (3) |
| 7 Positive (5) | 7 Constantly recurring (7) |
| 8 Tenant (8) | 8 Teacher (9) |
| 9 Behavioural rules (4,2,7) | 9 Golden sherry (7) |
| 10 Defer (8) | 10 Supervise (7) |
| 11 Taunt (4) | 11 Church instrument (5) |
| 12 Managing (6) | 12 High-pitched signal (5) |
| 13 Ring seal (6) | 12 Type (3) |
| 14 Winning serve (3) | |
| 15 Blunt needle (6) | |
| 16 Excuse (6) | |

SOLUTION TO No 223
ACROSS: 1 Riches 4 Lavabo 7 Mine 8 Alter ego 9 Humoured 12 Dew 15 Glibly 16 Minor 17 Gee 19 Preclude 24 Carriage 25 Gnuw 26 Bedlam 27 Nicely
DOWN: 1 Rump 2 Concubine 3 Snuff 4 Lathe 5 Vary 6 Boogie 10 Oxley 11 Drill 12 Decadence 13 Warn 14 Aggs 18 Evade 20 Realism 21 Clean 22 Airt 23 Awry

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HEALS
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BOOKS

Recent books about Russian life and politics

The Big Brother state . . .

Life in Russia
By Michael Binyon
(Hamish Hamilton, £9.95)

Among the Russians
By Colin Thubron
(Heinemann, £8.95)

Michael Binyon spent four and a half years in the Soviet Union reporting for *The Times*. *Life in Russia* is a distillation of his experiences during that time, providing a valuable guide to an extraordinary society, alien in almost all its ways from our own. Despite restrictions placed on his movements and the rigid circumscription of society at large, he is able to conjure up a credible impression of life in the great socialist state. The result is an invaluable guide for any prospective visitor.

On the whole the impression is utterly depressing. Everything is characterized by boundless inefficiency, disorder, corruption, vice and repression. Everywhere there are shortages, mechanical breakdowns, administrative blunders of colossal proportions and profligate wastage. There is nothing which is not controlled, or rather obstructed, by a state administration which would be incapable of solving the problems of this vast land were it not for the teams of Solons. As it is the rulers come up only with Five-Year Plans which have the effect of crippling the economy infinitely more effectively than any United States boycott could dream of enacting.

Michael Binyon provides many amusing instances of this bureaucratic confusion, such as the provincial newspaper whose disappearance from circulation passed unnoticed for a month, and the unbuild factory whose production rate featured so satisfactorily in government statistics for a year or more.

But overall the reality lacks a humorous aspect. It is particularly harsh on women, who make up 51 per cent of the labour force, and 92 per cent of whom either work or study. In addition the majority of housewives are faced with a daily four hours of housekeeping, much of it taken up by the amazing triple-queue systems required when shopping. Living quarters are drab and cramped, drunkenness among men remains a ubiquitous popular means of secession from socialism, and the Russian birth and life expectancy rates are declining drastically. Not surprisingly divorce almost every other through and abortion stalks marriage, and youth is widely alienated into the much-condemned but totally resistant jeans culture. The entire countryside has been despoiled as it ravaged for years by a hostile army.

Fortunately there is another Russia which has somehow survived the onslaught against everything which formerly sustained and exalted her people: religion, literature, the family, self-expression, and self-advancement. Mr Binyon provides many examples of the innate kindness, warmth and generosity which characterize so many Russians amid all their tribulations, and which arise at least in part as a reaction against the prevailing darkness of oppression. He also chronicles traits which appear economic to the outsider, such as the Russian love when opportunity offers of doing absolutely nothing at all.

Life in Russia is readable and informative, and Mr Binyon is a skilled gatherer of out-of-the-way anecdotes and details which bring his wide-ranging survey to vivid life. He is less happy on the historical background, which occasionally

leads him into seriously misleading error. Thus he writes in emotional vein of the Soviet "war memorial" at Khatyn, being strangely unaware that this hideously vulgar edifice was erected in 1969 as a propaganda distraction from Khatyn of infamous memory. He also believes that "the principle of sealing off the countryside from prying eyes is firmly rooted in pre-revolutionary practice". It is not, as a glance at an old Murray or Baedeker would have confirmed.

There is no danger of finding howlers of this sort in Colin Thubron's superb account of his solitary journey in an old Morris Marina across much of European Russia. His understanding of Russian history and civilization is profound, as is his perception of Soviet reality. His writing has an enchanted, lyrical quality which never falters. It is hard to think of a better travel book written this century. He has a way of absorbing and imparting atmosphere and feeling which is uniquely infectious.

Everywhere he went he struck up fascinating acquaintances, and clearly possesses a deep talent for inspiring confidence and eliciting those views and experiences which can illuminate a whole life in a few paragraphs. He neither obtrudes himself nor remains elusively detached; indeed, it is his own personality, warm, responsive, generous and deeply civilized, which acts as a perfect foil to the bizarre and melancholy land on his exploration. It is hard to think of a book more warmly to be recommended to anyone with the slightest interest in Russia and her people, or who simply wishes to read some of the very best English prose. A magnificent achievement.

Nikolai Tolstoy

. . . changes in Soviet policy

After Brezhnev

Sources of Soviet Conduct in the 1980s
Edited by Robert F. Byrnes
(Farrar, Straus & Giroux, £16.50, paperback, £8.95)

Predicting who will follow President Andropov is less important than determining what changes are likely in Soviet policy. This task was expertly tackled by some three dozen eminent scholars brought together by the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies to produce a comprehensive volume that presents a sound analysis of Soviet decision making. Seven working groups examined political, economic, social and cultural trends; military forces; Eastern Europe and foreign policy.

The editor, Professor Robert Byrnes, discusses the critical choices facing the USSR, and comes to the depressing but justified conclusion that the leaders who emerge after Andropov will share the values of those now at the top who selected them. He rightly argues that while the Western allies can have little direct influence on how the Soviet leadership manages internal affairs, they should "use their considerable strengths at appropriate times to contain Soviet power". By coordinating their policies they may be able "to nudge the Soviet Union into policies that make the system more tolerable for its citizens and less threatening for the world".

The authors agree that in the

foreseeable future the USSR will neither collapse, nor become a democracy; it will remain a destabilizing element in international affairs. Professor Seweryn Bialer is convincing in explaining why he does not expect any fundamental reform of the present system which combines "Stalinist totalitarianism and traditional authoritarianism". The regime now applies less drastic means of coercion than in Stalin's time, but it certainly cannot dispense with authoritarian methods without unacceptable loss of power.

Professor Bialer warns the US Administration not to push the Soviet leaders at a time of transition, since what they fear more than anything else is to be considered weak and irresolute, and they may therefore tend to overcompensate when challenged. Although declining internally the USSR is capable of "unprecedented mischief in the international arena" and will pursue an expansionist foreign policy if not contained by a strengthened Western alliance capable of pursuing a patient and consistent long-range policy.

Professor Robert Campbell expects a considerable fall in Soviet oil output by 1990 leading to a reduction in energy exports and contributing to the general slow-down in economic growth. Bad management, inefficient agriculture and low labour productivity are among the other problems which the USSR will probably "muddle through", with the

economy performing well enough to satisfy military demands, thus ensuring that the political leadership will remain unthreatened by the generals.

Living standards are no longer showing a steady improvement: the USSR faces increasing mortality rates, ethnic tensions, declining social mobility, falling moral standards, cultural isolation, and - not surprisingly - "growing pessimism". Soviet policy in Eastern Europe has become more sophisticated, but the authors believe on sound evidence that the Kremlin will continue to maintain its tight grip. Professor Adam Ulam rounds off this thorough coverage of Soviet affairs with a perceptive essay on foreign policy.

There are, of course, many details of presentation and interpretation with which one might quibble. The Soviet empire was not "legitimized internationally" in the Helsinki Final Act, which provided for the possible changing of frontiers by peaceful means. It is wrong to say that apart from the general secretary none of the Central Committee secretaries is responsible for foreign policy. What about Boris Ponomarev, head of the international department for almost 30 years? However, there are surprisingly few slips considering the speed with which this timely work of high scholarship and stimulating arguments was produced.

Iain Elliot

Fiction

A Highlander on the make

Calum Tod
By Norman Malcolm Macdonald
(Canongate, £7.50, paperback, £2.95)

Come Back
By Jonathan Smith
(Michael Joseph, £8.95)

The Scotsman who is meant to have read a dictionary under the impression that it was a novel, and afterwards to have commented, "Verra interesting, but a wee bit disconnected", might have made a similar remark about *Calum Tod*. *Calum Tod* is interesting, but pushes disunity to unusual lengths. It contains not merely a failed novel within a novel which does not fully succeed, but also a very good book review which explains why the novel fails.

This review is of great assistance when wondering what to say. For although the writing is of evident quality, it is so disparate that the whole amounts to rather less than the sum of its parts. In the internal review we discover why this should be so.

So the novel describes, and itself reflects, a writer in a state of flux. To write novels about writing novels is to run the risk of appearing introverted, if thought for some unaccountable reason that writers in their struggle to interpret things are different to other human beings. But there is the agreeable feeling to this book that it exists because Norman Macdo-

naid wanted to write it, not because he would solicit the favours of a mass readership.

Tod is brought up on the island of Lewis. The islanders' harsh way of life is drawn with skillful roughness, folk tales without whimsy. After childhood agonies, Tod goes to sea, and then - some literary references have warned that this may happen - he starts to write a novel, a stream of consciousness, using the girl with whom he lives as his raw material. But we learn later that Tod "was quite unable to carry on with it after he moved out to Notting Hill". He makes a last, unsuccessful attempt, involving the use of a pair of card indexes, and concludes he has accomplished nothing. But he has accomplished a fine portrait of a Highlander trying to prove himself outside his native land, as a failure something of a tour de force.

Come Back is about an Englishman whose first love is for Eva, a girl of Czech descent. His gaucheness, and the charming pretentiousness of his budding mind, are well described. There is mention, usual nowadays when two young thinkers fall into romantic conversation, of the immortal Albert Camus. Eva and the Englishman visit Prague, investigating the episode during the Second World War when President Benes set in train from London the assassination of the Leader of the Reich, Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich. Heydrich's father was a distinguished composer, Heydrich

himself a good musician and a ruthless butcher. That is an unpleasant fact to which Mr Smith draws attention, the willingness of members of the cultivated middle classes to join or collaborate with abominable regimes, the Nazis during the war, the Soviets today.

With even greater clarity, though a light touch and no moralizing, Mr Smith shows the difficulties faced by those who want to resist a brutal occupation. Benes, of whom an excellent portrait is given, in 1938 fears that to resist the Germans by force would mean national suicide and a bombed-out Prague. In 1942, desperately anxious to demonstrate that the Czechs are determined to resist, and so worthy of help from the West, as the French or the Poles, Benes instigates the attack on Heydrich. It leads to the razing of villages and the murder of thousands of Czech civilians in retaliation. Today, for an activity so violent as writing plays, the reward may be torture and imprisonment. Czechoslovakia is a far off country of which we know next to nothing. Mr Smith has reminded us of the Czech fate, and the dilemma of unenslaved minds under tyranny, in the best possible way: he has written a readable and entertaining novel about it.

Andrew Gimson

The London Encyclopedia, referred to in *Come Back*, has no entry for Sir John Sorell's Museum, under Sir John rather than Sorell.



Warsaw, 1937. This Jewish girl does not have a bicycle licence

Pictures for the record

A Vanished World
by Roman Vishniac
(Allen Lane, £30)

If McCallie is this century's great photographer of war, then Vishniac has done more than any other to document war's precursor: persecution and terror. Using a hidden camera he travelled across Eastern Europe between 1934 and 1939 in hazardous conditions (he was often taken for a spy) in order to photograph Jewish communities at work and play. Of his 16,000 negatives only 2,000 remain, and a selection are published here for the first time. In the certain knowledge that many of his subjects were to perish he embarked on a self-appointed mission: "I felt that the world was about to be cast into the shadow of Nazism, and that the outcome would be the annihilation of a people who had no spokesman to record their plight." The results of his extraordinary journeys across Germany and Poland tend to render contemporary attempts at "committed" photography insipid, for he was not so foolish as to believe that photography could change anything. He was a Jew among Jews, a silent observer from the inside and the custodian, as he saw it, of the world's conscience.

The pictured betray early training in

microscopic photography (a field in which he is pre-eminent) as a matter of style. The apparently insignificant gesture of a man on his way home in Warsaw (1937), clutching all his possessions in a paper bag. His hand is tucked into his jacket across his stomach: is he ill? Is he hungry? Vishniac's best photographs succeed in this allusive manner, a technique redolent of Cartier-Bresson. In the tradition of modern reportage photography he covers all spheres of Jewish life, from religious instruction to beggar-making. But it is in his photographs of children that Vishniac's genius is most evident, and where he manages most brilliantly to avoid the distracting gloss of sentimentality which such subjects easily provoke. A little Jewish girl is berated in the street by a policeman in Warsaw. Onlookers stare from a safe distance. The child does not look at the man. Her mind is elsewhere. She does not have a licence for her bicycle. Just how Vishniac's pictures convey a sense of the diaspora to come must remain a mystery. More than forty years after the event this collection constitutes a *memento mori* in which aesthetic pleasure must perforce take a back seat. "When he cried," said W. H. Auden in *Epitaph for a Tyrant*, "the little children died in the street."

Rory Coonan

Welsh boy makes good

In My Time
An Autobiography
By Lord Elwyn-Jones
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.50)

Much the most interesting part of this book is the account of the Nuremberg Trial. Lord Elwyn-Jones, a newly elected Labour M.P., was briefed in August to appear, among others, as Counsel for the Prosecution. We cannot be too often reminded of the enormity of the crimes against the helpless committed by the Nazi leaders, which no exigencies of the preparations for, or the conduct of, war could possibly excuse.

Nowadays it is suggested by some that the numbers who suffered have been exaggerated and that many German officials, including those highly placed, were unaware of what was going on. Elwyn-Jones and his fellow Counsel had access to voluminous, unredacted official records. "Our estimate at Nuremberg was that no less than 12 million men, women and children of many races were killed in cold blood."

That takes no account of documents lost or destroyed, or of the multitudes still in the concentration camps when the Germans were defeated. The defendants were convicted by their own statistics. Forensic skills were scarcely needed by the prosecutors.

Lord Elwyn-Jones was tempted to leave the Bar and to become a journalist before the war. "I felt that journalism was not my true vocation." How wise he was. Apart from Nuremberg and the case of the Banaba Islanders, monstrously despoiled by phosphate extractors with the aid of the British government, his book is mainly a flat and detailed recital of events which stays outside the



Lord Chancellor, 1974

facade without attempting to show what is behind it. The author's father was for thirty years a rollerman in a South Wales steelworks, at times unemployed. His mother's parents originally came from a small farm. There were seven children of whom only four survived past eleven months. Mr and Mrs Jones brought up the other three boys and a girl in a terraced house in Llanelli so effectively that all of them went to a university, the boys fetching up at Cambridge. It would be fascinating to know what life was like in a remarkable family in which the parents struggled so hard, in the

early part of the century, to give their children a better life than theirs. Lord Elwyn-Jones does not understand what rich material he had. Or could it be that as a dedicated Socialist he hesitates to say too much about the glittering opportunities, thrift, selfless working class parents could make available to talented children forty years before the Butler Education Act?

Called to the Bar in 1935, he was encouraged in his legal by D. N. Pritt, eventually expelled from the Labour Party for his close sympathies with Communism. On a holiday with the Pritts he met Pearl Binder, a writer of the very Left, who in the sixties became an enthusiastic supporter of CND. They married in 1937 and genuinely lived happy ever after: their mutual love is touching.

As time passed Elwyn-Jones grew away from the politics of his early associations and ended, I would judge, somewhere in the Wilson-Callaghan belt. He much enjoyed being Lord Chancellor and all the trimmings which went with it. You can't do that without succumbing to the idea that society is perhaps not ordered quite so badly as you thought when you first started the struggle to get to the top of it.

His book may even be useful to historians ploughing the furrows of research for still more source material. But they should expect no startling revelations or original thinking from Lord Elwyn-Jones. However, an appendix contains the whole of Lord Elwyn-Jones' speech in the Rotunda of the Capitol when presenting to Congress one of the original copies of *Magna Carta* on loan for one year, and from which the reader may learn how privileged Lord Elwyn-Jones felt he was to be there on that occasion.

Woodrow Wyatt

Call the land as witness

Village Farmstead
By Christopher Taylor
(George Philip, £10.95)

This is the most startling work of history I have ever read. So many accepted scenarios are set aside that the general reader begins very slowly to touch the articles of furniture around him in the room.

Its theme is the history of rural settlement in England, but at certain points, in prehistory and the onset of the Dark Ages, it becomes a history of England. The author, Christopher Taylor, makes use of the most recent archaeological research but, and more startling, of the most

recent aerial photography. He calls as witnesses the land itself. What do most of us accept? Probably a gradual settlement of the landscape, the founding of villages, the clearing of the woodland, a process beginning in Saxon times and accelerating in the Middle Ages. Wrong. The growth of pollen and soil analysis suggests that the attack in the woodland began around 5,500 BC. And now, wait for it: BY ABOUT 1000 BC THERE WAS PROBABLY LESS WOODLAND IN ENGLAND THAN THERE IS NOW.

Which brings us to the greatest shattering of all, that of the Saxon invasion on which 1500 years of Welsh myth were based. Taylor sees this not in terms of the last great battles in

the West but as a hiccup, "the political take-over of a disintegrating society". He quotes an estimate of Professor Charles Thomas, that during the 5th century NO MORE THAN 10,000 SAXON SETTLERS CAME TO THIS COUNTRY. The population of Roman Britain could have been as high as 5,000,000.

There are few villains in this book and little drama. His theme is change itself, operating almost independently of men. He calls it "drift". Settlements are founded, grow and disappear and often there seems to be no reason at all. And it has all been going on for far longer than any of us know.

Byron Rogers

Taking the waters

The Spencers on Spas
By Raine Spencer
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95)

English Spas are very fascinating cities, the survivors of the rage for mineral waters and hot baths that swept like a hurricane through eighteenth century Europe. Of course their origins were far older; Bath became famous in Roman days; others took root in the middle ages but they achieved little more than a local fame. In the eighteenth century the sick and the barren haunted them in the fear of death and the hope for life.

In the eighteenth century there were over three hundred wells and baths, in various stages of growth - most of them had a short, ephemeral existence but some grew and flourished - Buxton, Leamington, Cheltenham, Tunbridge Wells, the towns we still know as the "English Spas". Only a very few of the minor spas have survived in contrast with France where several have become the highly sophisticated playgrounds of the seriously rich. If only John Aspinall and Robert Carrier had taken over Mallock Bath, or rebuilt Mistletoe or rescued Ashby-de-la-Zouch!

Some have survived partly by being, like Harrogate, retirement centres for our ageing middle-class; others have been helped - like Leamington with its vast and beautiful parks - by being close to the teeming hordes of Birmingham and Coventry. And some by luck - Woodhall Spa, built because John Pitt found water instead of coal, attached a fine golf course to itself just before the game boomed. The most important factor of all, however, has been the splendour of their architectural heritage which even the most wanton philistines failed to destroy.

Lord Spencer's photographs are quite exceptionally good whether of architecture or of people or of both. And the book will prove a wonderful bargain not only for the pictures but also for the text. Lady Spencer is a seriously artistic. She combines history with personal reminiscence in the most engaging way.

The Spas are as great a part of our heritage as stately homes, castles or cathedrals - perhaps more so for they encapsulate so much of human experience - its pain and suffering as well as its delight in beauty - all of which is brought vividly home in this beautiful book.

John Plumb

Four true strings

The String Quartet
By Paul Griffiths
(Thames & Hudson, £12)

Born in somewhat obscure circumstances, brought up by Haydn and given new stature by Beethoven, in middle life somewhat neglected, the string quartet is still alive and very well indeed. So Mr Griffiths suggests in this lively, well-written history of the genre, declaring it to have "the stability yet capacity for constant renewal of a living species." There is certainly no lack of interest among living composers in the tried and true combination of two violins, viola and cello, enduring as it has through all the vicissitudes of the symphony orchestra.

If Haydn occupies the largest part of the book, that is justice not only to the volume of his output but to its range. As Mr Griffiths puts it, beside some of the symphonies he can in his quartets be "more intimately clever, more at home and more dangerous." One of the qualities of Haydn's greatness is his capacity for taking wonderful risks, without which all music-making, whether by composer or interpreter, becomes sterile. And the works are all accessible to the domestic musician, who is by no means as nearly extinct as Mr Griffiths seems to think.

But the later the day gets, the more uncomfortable or simply defeated the amateur becomes, and the more severely taxed even the most skilled professional. Mr Griffiths scarcely justifies in his envoi his view that "it would be possible to imagine the Haydn-Dittersdorf-Mozart-Vanhal quartet sitting down to tackle Carter or Xenakis" on the grounds of the continuing appeal of the medium to social wit, personal profundity, and musical intelligence. He is an eloquent and vivid exponent of the newest music, but he is not entirely free

from one of the most notorious undistributed middles of criticism, namely the implication that because Beethoven was thought difficult in his time and proved to be great, it is likely to be the same with difficult works of our own time. Beethoven still is difficult.

Without attempting the range of Beethoven's major commentators, among them Kernan, Lam, and Radcliffe, Mr Griffiths manages to make some excellent points of his own about the quartet. He writes with courage and verve, and his gift for touching on an illuminating point in a week's structure seldom betrays him. I think he might have made more of the extraordinary major-minor drama that runs through Schubert's G major quartet, and the "Death and the Maiden" movement of the D minor quartet is surely better seen as an outcome of the powerful first movement, with its stricken shudder of a close, than as a piece requiring a preface movement. He is also nervous of the Paris "quatuor brillant" tradition, which in turn leads him, like most writers, to underestimate Cherubini. He still manages to write about it with the enthusiasm and the quick perceptions that mark the book as a whole.

John Warrack

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20A

THE TIMES
DIARY

The silent tipster

Tony Christopher, leader of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation and rumoured to succeed Len Murray as TUC general secretary is obviously very approachable to people with problems. The owner of a restaurant which he frequents recently asked his advice about a delicate financial matter. It appears that customers are increasingly adding the tip to their credit card payment when settling their bill. This makes the tips taxable, which they would not be if paid in cash. I would dearly love to know what advice Mr Christopher gave, but this particular tax man refuses to return my calls.

Times future

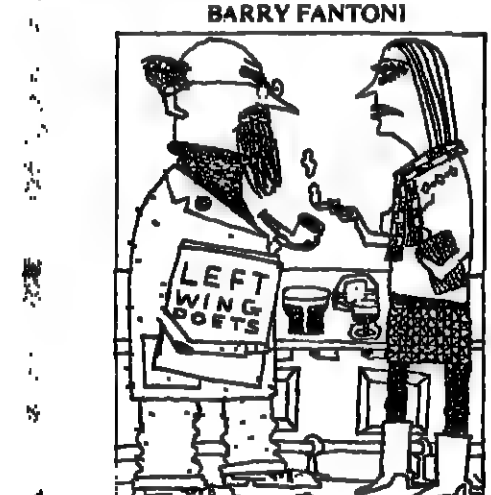
John Graham, the man who produced a publication called *Not Yet The Times* while the genuine article was off the streets in 1979, is producing a second edition to greet the new Orwellian year. It will bear the date January 1, 2004 and will feature some familiar-sounding columns looking back on 1984 from their prison cells. Mr Graham describes his paper as "a broadsheet joke". It will be easy not to confuse it with our own more serious version of events since, as well as hearing a futuristic date stamp, Mr Graham's newspaper will cost rather more than 20p.

Milked dry

The diary is a regular feature of most newspapers and magazines. The *Journalist*, official organ of the NUJ, is no exception. The column in its seventy-fifth anniversary issue about people and events goes under the heading "Diary".

Sticky wicket

The early joint favourites for the chairmanship of the all-party Select Committee on Defence, Michael Mates and Michael Marshall, have more in common than their first names and initials. Both Tory MPs share a passion for cricket: Marshall is a former BBC cricket commentator and Mates is captain of the Lords and Commons cricket teams. Marshall is also a prolific author. His next book is a history of Gentlemen v Players. In view of the shenanigans which have taken place over the choice of the defence committee's chairman, this might well be a subject on which he has acquired a new understanding.



Barry Fantoni

Paid-for channel

Roland Rat, like other TV stars before him, has discovered the delights of free foreign travel. His three-week trip to Switzerland will be featured in 17 separate 25-minute episodes on TV-am over Christmas and the New Year. Luckily for TV-am, which was recently beset by unpaid creditors, the Swiss Tourist Board and Swissair were "very helpful" with the jaunt to Zermatt and Saasfee. A Swiss jet will be seen winging its way to the land of the yodel at the start of each episode.

Yardstick

The Metropolitan Police are taking their time about acquiring a more sensitive image, following the rather crucial Policy Studies Institute report on their performance. In the latest issue of their magazine, *The Job*, ex-Area Commander Don Saunders warns Met men that "without an attitude in life after retirement, you could end up carrying the wife's shopping bag".

Vanguard

Publishing News carries a riposte by publisher Leo Cooper to bookshops which claim they cannot get certain books until after Christmas. "This is patent nonsense. Most publishers can deliver during the Christmas period with great speed and many go to ingenious lengths, like hiring vans for their reps" - replacing perhaps their usual bus or bicycle?

TalkalongaNeil

It didn't really need a two-year £34,000 study of politicians by a research team from Warwick University to discover that Neil Kinnock "has a tendency to ramble". His Shadow Cabinet colleagues will deliver the same information for free. They are finding that Shadow Cabinet meetings are getting longer and longer because of their leader's habit of never using one sentence when three paragraphs will do. After a recent two-hour marathon, one member calculated that when added together Kinnock's contributions totalled 90 minutes.

The lion in the dinosaurs' den

Paul Routledge looks at the simmering conflict behind the attempt to censure the TUC leader, Len Murray

Mr Len Murray last night survived the biggest trial of his leadership of the TUC, but the union movement's opposition to the Government's employment legislation lay in ruins as a result. The substantial majority recorded in favour of his repudiation of support for the unlawful one-day strike called by the NGA confirms the sharp trend away from the "direct action" school of policy in opposing legal curbs on the unions. It also demonstrates that the moderates have taken a firm grip on the direction of the labour movement, but the split in the general council also shows that a substantial minority within the TUC does not accept Mr Murray's view that opposition to the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts must be kept within the law. The TGWU immediately said it would continue to support the NGA in its present strategy to win a closed shop at the Messenger group of newspapers, which has cost £675,000 in fines for contempt of court orders not to picket the company's Warrington plant. The crisis precipitated by Mr Murray's repudiation of the expressed support for the NGA by union leaders finally put into sharp focus an internal conflict over the leadership style of the TUC General Secretary that has been simmering for months. When they met three nights ago, some members of the Employment Policy and Organization Committee were shocked at the first draft of the statement prepared for their approval. It scarcely mentioned the employer, Eddie Shah, but it condemned the violence on the Warrington picket line and Mr Murray insisted that it should be endorsed. "Does that mean we have to do as we are told?" asked Mr Moss Evans, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the largest affiliate to the TUC. The question was not without feeling. There is a powerful undercurrent of sentiment that Mr Murray is overreaching himself. It was not always so. Elected unopposed in 1973 to take over from the folksy but crafty Vic Feather, he was initially overshadowed by those two giants of the 1970s trade union world, Jack Jones of the transport union and Hugh Scanlon of the engineering workers. When the "terrible twins" retired, virtually simultaneously, labour commentators could see no obvious heirs among the 40-odd union leaders who then made up the general council. That is because they were looking in the wrong direction. It was Lionel Murray who was to be the new lion of the labour movement. He filled the power vacuum left by the departure of the Jones-Scanlon axis, unobtrusively at first but in recent years with evident relish. TUC policy is fashioned publicly at the annual congress each autumn and privately in the sub-committees of the general council. He dominates both. When his personal imprimatur on a peace formula for the settlement of a strike - ironically by NGA members at the *Financial Times* - was called into question four months ago, he turned on members of the General Council and reminded them that they had all asked for his support in the dispute at one time or another. He won the vote overwhelmingly, making the issue a test of the TUC's authority; and that authority was identified with his own personal standing in the matter. The TUC rule book is vague about the duties of the General Secretary and silent about the real scope of his influence. He is a full voting member of the General Council and of its major committees, though Mr Murray rarely votes and then usually only on internal issues such as the reform of the General Council itself. The rules underpin his real power. His staff, most of whom are intensely loyal, write the policy papers that go to General Council committees. Within the general parameters laid down by congress decisions, they effectively determine the posture of the TUC - and that public face has come to look very much like the views of Mr Murray himself. The collision yesterday was between the political thrust of his Congress House machine, together with its newly triumphant moderate majority on the General Council, and the unions who stick defiantly to the TUC's prelection policies of total hostility to employment legislation enacted by Mrs Thatcher's government. Mr Murray reportedly described the opposition of these class-struggle warriors as "the last twitch of the dinosaurs". He may now be ruefully recalling that the dinosaur as a species was comparatively successful, lasting rather longer than the unions have survived. "The dinosaur unions" were out to clip the General Secretary's wings.

Charles McKean argues against the Tories' laissez-faire housing policy

Why the home front is heading for collapse

Analysis of the physical state of the housing stock in England and Wales indicates that present policies on controlling capital expenditure and encouraging private ownership will leave the next government (of whatever persuasion) with little short of a major catastrophe - with a growing rate of mortgage failures, houses collapsing in the streets, and with people on housing waiting lists having no prospect of being rehoused in their lifetime. These predictions are founded on the 1981 House Condition Survey of the Department of the Environment, whose message is so alarming that one is surprised that it got past current Government policy of censoring sensitive documents. Its sensitive nature was, however, the cause of a six-month delay in publication, and very quiet release. The house condition surveys are taken every five years and provide the yardstick of the rate of house improvement. The three measurements are: the number of houses actually unfit; those lacking one or more listed amenities (e.g. inside lavatory); and those requiring serious repairs (over £7,000 at 1981 prices). A decline in the number of unfit houses can imply either demolition and rebuilding, or rehabilitation. A decline in the other two categories is almost entirely explained by rehabilitation and housing improvement. Between 1971 and 1976 the rate of improvement was quite glorious, clearly a legacy of the 1969 Housing Act with its large-scale improvement grants, with an average annual rate of 192,000 houses being demolished and replaced, or repaired. In the next five years, 1977-81, that rate of improvement dropped by more than three-quarters to 43,000 a year, and there is little doubt that it is even lower now. The situation now is that the Government, on the one hand, is paying for less improvement, and on the other that post-1919 houses are falling into serious disrepair at an accelerating rate. The number of houses requiring major repairs in 1981 was almost double that of 1971. The DOE graphs imply that by 1991 the number of such houses could double to 24 million - even if the current rate of deterioration remained static. But the housing stock is not evenly divided. There are considerable quantities of inter-war houses whose condition is likely to deteriorate all at once, which could cause a further rise in the graph. The Government currently finances only 43,000 repaired dwellings a year against a deterioration rate of more than 100,000 a year. That implies that by 1991, more than 1,800,000 houses will require significant repairs. The current rate of progress would take 46 years to clear the backlog. Current Government policy is to rely on self-help and home ownership. However, the House Condition Survey figures indicate that all is not well with the owner-occupied sector. It now leads the league in ownership of both unfit houses and houses requiring significant repair, taking top place from the private rented sector. This may be because local authorities are so hard-pressed that for much of the year they have to impose a freeze on improvement and repair of grants, but there are wider implications. Those who can least afford a repairs bill of £7,000 are (apart from the elderly and unemployed) the first-time buyers. Yet, according to building society statistics, it is the first-time buyers who are mainly concentrated in the older, urban house whose repairs are becoming so crucial. Even as has been suggested by those seduced by US experiments - giving the houses to their occupiers would not solve the problem of the occupiers being unable to meet high repair bills. In American inner cities, there is some evidence that families caught in this trap simply abandon their houses and go to earth. More than 100,000 of the dwellings requiring extensive repair are owned by local authorities or new towns; a high proportion of these must be in cities like Sheffield, which owns 95,000 council houses, almost 10,000 of which are in four gigantic, poorly-built, inter-war council estates. Several of those estates were built with a black mortar which corroded the wall ties; bulging gables, shoring and even collapse of houses represent the current state of repair. A further 15,000 inter-war houses in other estates are in the same unmodernized decay state. The city receives £26m for its housing investment programme, £8m of which is predetermined for private sector grants, leaving £18m to pay for all other housing functions, from management to minor repairs. That leaves about £14m for capital expenditure. The improvement of a house with no serious problems averages, in Sheffield, about £10,000. If the cost is significantly more, the house is demolished and rebuilt, costing about £25,000 - for there is no point in propping up an unstable structure. The ratio of improvement to new building is something like three quarters to one quarter. Now, assuming a standard 60-year life on these houses, the council should be repairing or replacing some 1,600 per annum; yet the cost of that would be £23m. The Government's allocation, however, is only £14m. At a recent conference a member of the city's architects' department said: "We shudder to think what another winter will do..." Sheffield Council cannot rely (even if it should) on the households to undertake such work since more than a third have no income earner. The Government's view is that capital receipts from house sales would provide the necessary income in the current year some £12m. Sheffield points out that the 3,000 dwellings which have already been sold were the best and sales will now probably slump. In any case, house sales are an uneconomic way of raising capital: the average sale price is barely £11,000 - less than half the cost of a new home - and many are much cheaper. The council would have to sell several usable properties to raise the finance to construct a new one. These calculations are concerned, solely, with tackling Sheffield's existing housing stock, not expanding it. Yet there are 35,000 households on the city council's waiting list. So current investment levels in Sheffield offer the unedifying spectacle of houses collapsing in the streets, of council tenants spending all their lives in unfit council property, and of people on the council waiting list ceasing to have any hope. These alarming housing predictions come at a time when unemployment in the building industry is higher than in any other industry, when it is known that investment in the building industry can be a trigger for revival. The Government says there is no alternative to its low investment in housing. There is always an alternative. What is needed is a long-term housing investment programme which takes into account the annual rates of deterioration and tackles them. It should be financed over a five or 10-year period to allow the building industry to rebuild its skills and plant. To do nothing, and let the growing house condition crisis become a problem for future governments, is the economics of the kindergarten. It will inevitably lead to demands for more mass-production houses to satisfy need. We shall be back to the 1960s. Can the Government really believe that it will be in power after the next election if it is laying in store so much trouble for itself?

Decay and dereliction, and it can only get worse



Seaga now the leader of a virtual one-party state, but his snap election could create tensions he will regret

After Grenada, Seaga's pyrrhic walk-over

The issue dominates everything from professional gatherings to radio talk shows. *The Gleaner*, Jamaica's only morning newspaper, is full of constitutional debate in columns, letters, and news stories. The country's Governor-General, Sir Florizel Glasspole, has been quoted as using the description "political crisis". The Jamaican Council of Churches has asked the Prime Minister to introduce electoral reforms immediately. It wants electoral rolls to be updated to bring in up to 180,000 new disenfranchised voters, including those who have reached the voting age of 18 since the 1980 election, and the introduction of identity cards to prevent fraud. Then, it says, Mr Seaga should call another election. Meanwhile, lawyers and political scientists are searching the constitution for ways to create a place for an opposition. Mr Seaga is reported to be considering naming opposition politicians to the Senate, an appointed body-but there is no certainty they would accept. Manley's party has decided to hold monthly public forums in a Kingston hotel to consider national issues, and to appoint representatives in local constituencies to keep in touch with local problems. He rejects suggestions that this sounds like a government in internal exile. In the absence of candidates, the campaign has become a battle of documents. Manley brandished solemn pledges of electoral reform which he says were made by the government. Seaga took to rallies what he describes as a secret report from a conference of the opposition party outlining its weaknesses. Both sides cite constitutional law and historical precedent. Seaga argues that the parliamentary system allows him to call an election any time he chooses, and that it is the opposition that has provoked the crisis. He says that his course was necessary because the opposition had brought his integrity into question in reporting to the

Questioning the conventional

Ronald Butt

The Government need not have worried about the public's response to *The Day After*. A MORI opinion poll has shown that CND support after the film was exactly the same as before - 30 per cent among those who saw the film, but only 26 per cent of the wider public. Most people seem to have felt, quite rightly, that they had learned little that was new from the film itself, either about the horror of nuclear war or the case for or against the deterrent. Yet the subsequent discussion on television raised real questions that ought to be discussed more clearly than they often are, and which were particularly illuminated by the former United States defence secretary Mr Robert McNamara. The film had postulated a Russian invasion of western Europe, the escalation of the conflict, the firing of three tactical nuclear weapons and the final intercontinental exchange between the United States and the USSR. It is probably true to think, as Mr McNamara said, that if nuclear war was once started, at any level, it would escalate. If it began in Europe, it would almost certainly become intercontinental. There is, he said, no military use for nuclear weapons, except to deter. That, however, raises the question at what point US or nuclear weapons might have to be called into action to deter the Russians from using theirs? How far is it conceivable that nuclear weapons could be drawn back into more distant and less risky reserve, so to speak, by greater western reliance on conventional defence? This summer, I heard Professor Irving Kristol, the distinguished right-wing American publicist, outlining in a lecture at the London School of Economics a fascinating case for changing the basic concept of the Atlantic alliance. The alliance, he argued, was defunct. It had been based on the proposition that the US should keep troops in Europe not to fight (250,000 of them is too few for that) but to act as hostages and to engage the US with its nuclear potential, in the defence of Europe. It depended on the proposition that if the Soviet Union attacked, the US president would ultimately press the nuclear button in Europe's defence. That theory served so long as the US had nuclear superiority, but it has collapsed with US-USSR parity. It is one thing (he argued) for the US president to say from a position of nuclear superiority that he will send intercontinental ballistic missiles to destroy the Soviet Union if Europe is attacked. It is quite another to do so in the event of an attack on Europe if the result is the destruction of the US (as in the film) as well as of the Soviet Union. Therefore, runs the Kristol argument, the president would not press the nuclear button, and the idea of relying on the bluff that he just possibly might is too risky a basis for foreign policy. Since the troops are not there to fight, and could not be defended, and the button will not be pressed, Professor Kristol argued that there will be increasing pressure in the US to withdraw them. Nor does he believe in the idea of graduated deterrence (an idea invented to spare Europeans the cost of more conventional weapons), which has simply produced the "peace movement". The only sensible strategy, therefore, is for the Europeans, sacrificing their welfare programmes, to build up their own conventional forces so as to be able to win a wholly conventional war if attacked. What is necessary in the struggle between West and East for a free or non-free world, he says, is a strongly armed Europe, able to carry the fight back to the Soviet Union's frontiers, if attacked, with conventional forces only. It would be backed by a nuclear-armed United States ally which would have troops in Europe to fight, not simply as a symbol. It is an argument which coincides with much of what less provocative figures are saying. Thus Mr McNamara, though insisting that the United States would defend Europe, also emphasized the danger of being driven to nuclear weapons and argued for strong conventional European forces. He too no longer believes that, with parity, a NATO nuclear threat could deter a conventional attack and does not think NATO is prepared for suicide. He wants a non-nuclear zone and a declaration of non-first use of nuclear weapons. Conversely, it seems to me, a basic flaw in the Kristol and (to the extent that he shares it) the McNamara thesis, suppose the Russians were to attack Europe with conventional forces. Suppose by conventional forces the Europeans and Americans beat back the assault to the frontiers of eastern Europe (Kristol is careful not to suggest penetrating the USSR itself in such circumstances allow itself to be defeated for lack of a nuclear response, however small? And however small, would it not escalate? The West having renounced the use of nuclear weapons in reply to a conventional attack, the Russians would be in exactly the same position as the West was in with its nuclear defence was its only protection against conventional weapons. By very reason of its "conventional" victory, the West itself would lay under the nuclear threat. Miss Joan Ruddock of CND insists that her organization is not pacifist and speaks of having greater conventional defence. Neither she nor her colleagues say how they would have the West respond if the Russians, having failed in a conventional invasion, then threatened the West with nuclear attack. But the answer is, presumably, surrender. She does not believe that the Soviet Union seeks to invade us. Neither do I: it would be too dangerous because of nuclear weapons. But it would be hard for the Soviet Union, wishing to change Europe ideologically, not to push at that button, and the idea of relying on the bluff that he just possibly might is too risky a basis for foreign policy. Since the troops are not there to fight, and could not be defended, and the button will not be pressed, Professor Kristol argued that there will be increasing pressure in the US to withdraw them. Nor does he believe in the idea of graduated deterrence (an idea invented to spare Europeans the cost of more conventional weapons), which has simply produced the "peace movement". 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John P. Harris

A pastis master at deception

Then there was Frannie's desire for a big colour photo of a typical Midi peasant in his typical peasant interior, pouring the contents of a phial (prepared by William: pepper mint syrup) into a little bottle of tap water. Frannie, who was doing a series of articles on our picturesque peasantry and their quaint habits - the kind of thing that syndicates well in the Midwest. A particularly quaint habit in southern France is making one's own pastis, thus saving several pounds a bottle. Pastis is Pernod, Ricard and the like - the favourite green-yellow aniseed aperitif that turns cloudy when your iced water on it. Like all spirit aperitifs it is heavily taxed - more heavily than cognac or whisky, so that it costs almost as much as in Britain; wretched, a shocking state of affairs. To make it yourself at a tenth of the cost, you need anethol, colouring and alcohol. The alcohol is no problem, in small quantities. You can get 90° alcohol from French chemists, though theoretically they are not supposed to sell you more than a quarter of a litre at a time. It is perfectly drinkable if you break it down to half strength, and everyone makes his own liqueurs with it. What is illegal is the anethol, or oil of anis, simply because a bottle of home-made liqueur lasts a long time, whereas one gets through a bottle of pastis surprisingly quickly and the government does not want to be done out of its great chunk of tax. Half a teaspoonful of anethol, which can be bought legally in any country but France, is enough for a bottle of pastis. Just across the Spanish and Italian frontiers you can see the French buying little phials of a greenish fluid, *essence de pastis*, to be smuggled back home. For those who can't pop across a frontier, gypsies hawk the phial from door to door, at the bottom of an innocent-looking basket of lemons or garlic. Frannie wanted a photo of a cute, anethol-selling gypsy girl. Alas! William found several candidates eager to earn an honest franc or two, but not, absolutely not, to be photographed in compromising attitudes as anethol-pushers. I have recently been involved in a ruse to deceive the American public and earn a small fee as a model. William, one of the local British exiles, is a professional photographer. He teamed up with a nice young American journalist called Frannie, who was doing a series of articles on our picturesque peasantry and their quaint habits - the kind of thing that syndicates well in the Midwest. A particularly quaint habit in southern France is making one's own pastis, thus saving several pounds a bottle. Pastis is Pernod, Ricard and the like - the favourite green-yellow aniseed aperitif that turns cloudy when your iced water on it. Like all spirit aperitifs it is heavily taxed - more heavily than cognac or whisky, so that it costs almost as much as in Britain; wretched, a shocking state of affairs. To make it yourself at a tenth of the cost, you need anethol, colouring and alcohol. The alcohol is no problem, in small quantities. You can get 90° alcohol from French chemists, though theoretically they are not supposed to sell you more than a quarter of a litre at a time. It is perfectly drinkable if you break it down to half strength, and everyone makes his own liqueurs with it. What is illegal is the anethol, or oil of anis, simply because a bottle of home-made liqueur lasts a long time, whereas one gets through a bottle of pastis surprisingly quickly and the government does not want to be done out of its great chunk of tax. Half a teaspoonful of anethol, which can be bought legally in any country but France, is enough for a bottle of pastis. Just across the Spanish and Italian frontiers you can see the French buying little phials of a greenish fluid, *essence de pastis*, to be smuggled back home. For those who can't pop across a frontier, gypsies hawk the phial from door to door, at the bottom of an innocent-looking basket of lemons or garlic. Frannie wanted a photo of a cute, anethol-selling gypsy girl. Alas! William found several candidates eager to earn an honest franc or two, but not, absolutely not, to be photographed in compromising attitudes as anethol-pushers.

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THE FALLING POUND

For several weeks the pound has been falling toward \$1.40. It touched fresh depths again yesterday before closing in London at \$1.4170. There is an air of faint disbelief surrounding these events: we have a Conservative Government which believes in sound money and has successfully pursued policies designed to curb domestic inflation, keep the balance of payments in order and generally help foreign bankers sleep at night. They also seem fractionally unreal: the pound's latest fall from grace has not been reported under the once too familiar headline "Sterling Crisis." The counterpart of the pound's weakness is the strength of the American dollar and counterpart, so far, has been taken to be cause.

In a gravely troubled world, the dollar is seen as the only safe haven. The American economy is booming and acting as a huge magnet for investment capital. US interest rates are remunerative and high and because of the gorging demand for savings to cover the Federal Government's mammoth Budget deficit, they are not expected to fall. Against almost every expert prediction made in the last three years the dollar has risen. For fundamen-

tal reasons not yet properly appreciated the world may now be back on the dollar standard it abandoned during the 1970s when the supply of dollars, not least because of the huge OPEC oil surpluses appeared far to exceed the demand. A cheaper pound is not an unmixed blessing. It is useful for exporters and generally good for profits, both desirable at this stage of our own still tentative economic recovery. But devaluation can cause problems. If it goes too far, domestic inflation may go up rather than down as higher raw material and other import costs feed through into the prices of finished goods. Were the pound's situation to deteriorate significantly, this could change from a distant anxiety to an immediate political danger.

The problem would then be whether the Government should attempt to do anything to arrest sterling's decline. As long as all currencies were suffering from the dollar's resurgence, the temptation to act hardly existed. Until the last few days the pound, by and large, has held its ground against the rest. This may now be more difficult as pressures to reduce oil prices continue to mount. Foreign exchange dealers expect sterling to remain vulnerable to selling until the North Sea reference price is reduced in line with the lower prices in the spot market or the existing international oil price structure proves to be more durable than seems possible.

The practical options are limited. Intervention in the foreign exchange market, except to smooth out awkward wrinkles, would be futile as well as costly to the reserves. The flows of international capital are now too vast for any one Government or even several Governments acting in consort to divert. Higher interest rates would have to be considered but used only in, as a final resort. There would be no more certain way of smothering economic revival. The best course in fact is to do nothing. We have chosen to live in a world of floating exchange rates and not have an exchange rate policy, even if such a thing were possible. And we must not be surprised if the United States Government, especially in the run-up to a Presidential election, is not prepared to manage its own fiscal and monetary policies to suit our own and the European book.

ALL ON THE RATES

The settlement of the rate support grant used to be one of the great annual feasts of political economy, when ministers quite consciously pushed money into the maw of local government in a bid to keep rate levies down. Yesterday's game was different. For one thing, the excitement was less. The event has now been superseded by the announcement, in July, of the government's ambitions for individual councils; then there is the November financial statement; and the scattered pronouncements from the "maximalist" town halls about what they will spend and tax regardless of rate support grant movements. Yet the latest RSG announcement is important. It is the last to be couched in freedom before the sweeping powers contained in the rate-capping plan are presented to Parliament. It is significant because, perhaps for the first time, ministers are genuinely ambiguous about the effect of the settlement on rates. High rate rises themselves are the main reason for the rate-capping legislation: high rate rises could concentrate the minds of Parliamentary doubters; high rate rises would cost the government itself less than the propaganda team Mr Jenkin has established to sell his message.

The government presents the arithmetic as simple and in a sense so it is. With a grant total of £11.9 billion, representing 52 per cent of relevant council expenditure, average rate increases could be "low", as Mr Jenkin says. (A general pattern of rate increases about the level of inflation with some spectacularly high rises in London and the metropolitan areas would serve an educative purpose, to be sure.) But here is the rub. So many concessions have been made during the past two years on the aggregate of current council spending that the government's relative generosity on the rate support grant could pave the way for significant overspending again in 1984-85. There is no paradox here (and anyone interested in the finer points is strongly recommended to pick up a current copy of the estimable publication *Public Money*). At the same time as Mr Heseltine, Mr King and now Mr Jenkin have huffed and puffed over rates, the walls of revenue spending by councils have been built even higher: it increased in volume terms in 1983-84 by 1.2 per cent over the previous year, to be precise. The upshot is that a pattern of acceptable rate increases in April 1984 could be accompanied by a wholly unacceptable excess of spending over plan.

The confusion in government policy towards councils in recent years has not, as it is fashionable to say, lain in the intricate system it has devised of distributing grants to councils; any such system would be complex. The confusion has instead been fundamentally one of purpose. For three precious years under Mr Heseltine there was vacillation between changing the system of distributing money and controlling the total; since, and still, there is apparent confusion between controlling the rates levied by individual local authorities and managing the total of municipal outlays, and under the cloak of confusion

the government has manifestly failed to probe the structures by which councils spend or - as councillors prefer to put it - "deliver services"; however, the Audit Commission is now showing good will to accomplish this task. Meanwhile little interest has been shown in unclenching those tight statutory corsets which require councils to spend money, not save it. On the contrary, interest has been expressed in adding to the array of councils' activities. One of the noteworthy points made by Mr Jenkin yesterday was that certain areas of council spending would not be counted for the application of penalties for overspending in 1984-85. Disregarded are to be expenditures on inner city ventures, civil defence, and community care. In itself this adjustment by the government is only fair. But looked at in the round - and taken together with the significant rise in recent years in what are termed specific and supplementary grants by government to councils - it points to yet another way in which the total of council spending pushes at the totals set in financial planning by the Treasury. In his statement to the House yesterday Mr Jenkin broke a time-honoured convention of these winter announcements: he did not use the phrase "tough but fair." That is as it should be, because the settlement is in one sense much too fair. In another it is unfairly tough if it lends support to the government's project of pinning blame only on the ostentatiously high-spending councils for a general failure to meet financial targets.

DANISH EYES ON ULSTER

One of the better studies of the partition of Ireland was written by a Dutch geographer. So why not a Danish journalist turned European? And indeed Mr Niels Haagerup's report to and on behalf of the European Parliament is rather a good piece of work. Its inception was greeted by expressions of outrage from the Prime Minister and others who saw it as a threat. The European Parliament was held to be exceeding its competence, and it was assumed that an outside intervention from that quarter would be blundering and at the best unhelpful. The first objection was misconceived; the second has been falsified in the outcome.

Certainly the European Parliament is not competent to prescribe solutions for the problem of Northern Ireland or entertain proposals for constitutional change. Nor does it here. On the other hand as a Parliament it is entitled to follow budgetary expenditure wherever it leads. Northern Ireland and the immediate region on both sides of the border receive special consideration in the agricultural and regional policies of the Community, extending also to social and industrial programmes. More than £400 million has passed through those channels in the past ten years. Not a large sum in comparison with transfers from Great Britain, but still considerable and growing. This attention is well-earned in the province. The European Parliament is entitled to inform itself about the context in which these monies are spent; and it may, as the need for them becomes even more apparent, help to upgrade their priority

within the general expenditures of the Community. The report itself consists of three parts. The first is a resolution to be tabled in the Parliament. There is nothing in it to which the British or Irish government should object (unless it be the suggestion that now is the time for Britain to join the European Monetary System). The resolution is careful to remain within the ground staked out as common by the operation of Anglo-Irish summits. The longest section of the report is an analysis of the political and economic forces that condemn the province to its violent and unstable condition. It is shrewd, historically fleshed and avoids the worst pitfalls. It lets the nationalists off too lightly in the distribution of blame for the failure of the new Northern Ireland statelet to reconcile its communities; and it does not do justice to the position of the British government in relation to the hunger strike of 1981. But all in all it would be safe to put the report in the hands of an innocent abroad, the purpose for which it was written.

The final section consists of Mr Haagerup's conclusions and comments. They are, he stresses, personal. The bones of his position are that a unitary Irish state cannot be brought about in the foreseeable future. A British withdrawal would not still the violence but rather intensify it to the proportions of civil war. One may forget about Community, United States, United Nations, or Commonwealth peacekeeping forces. Political progress, if it is to be made, must be within the present constitutional framework. Ideally the aspiration and bogey of Irish unity should be put on ice in order to make way for another attempt to devise a political system within Northern Ireland that the representatives of both communities are prepared to work. At this point Mr Haagerup reflects the influence of Dublin's New Ireland Forum which will soon be beginning to write its report: it is a necessary condition that the new political arrangements should provide legitimate and visible expressions of the nationalist identity in the North far beyond what is the case today, including the establishment of joint British-Irish responsibility in a number of specified fields.

The attempt to be constructive about the course of Northern Ireland politics without doing violence to the facts is almost always self-refuting. So it is here. Mr Haagerup recognizes as a political factor of the utmost importance the opposition of one million Protestants to being made citizens of a united Ireland. It is opposition even to the point of civil war, and it is opposition that extends to any change in relationship which is clearly seen as preparatory to unification. He also sees that the political parties in the Republic cannot repudiate or even fall silent about their historic policy of Irish unity. Therefore they will not convince the Protestants of the North that the concessions demanded for the satisfaction of the nationalist identity which is cultivated in the province are not concessions devised for the purpose of advancing the policy of Irish unity in separation from Britain. Since these expressions of nationalist identity will fail in their purpose if unionist withdrawal support from the political arrangements that exhibit them, that way too looks blocked.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taking a risk on the Airbus

From Mr Miles Copeland, sen
Sir, As an old cold warrior with 40 odd years' experience at waging, alternately, both war and peace, may I offer some comments on *The Day After*, the film shown on ITV yesterday evening to dramatize the horrors of an atomic war. Until recently, I have gone annually to Washington, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere to attend conferences of practicing political scientists who were particularly concerned with various problems of conflict resolution, the central one being the causes and prevention of armed conflict. At these meetings it was simply assumed by all those present, including a Soviet representative, that the so-called "peace movement" has traditionally been an instrument of war, never of peace. It first appeared in the China of 500 BC when the legendary "Sun Tzu" advanced the theory that victory in war depends less on one's own strengths than on the enemy's weaknesses, and prescribed means whereby to develop those weaknesses - among them probably the first "peace campaigns" in history. The promotion of "peace movements" (on the other side, of course) was used effectively by Napoleon to soften up the Austrians, then later by the Germans in World Wars I and II, with the objective of keeping Britain, then later the United States, out of the war.

Promoting peace in interest of war

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Parole as means of reducing risk

From Professor J. E. Hall Williams
Sir, Your leader of December 3, in assessing the significance of the Home Secretary's initiative concerning certain life and long-term prisoners and announcing in advance how he proposes to use his statutory discretion to bar parole for certain categories of prisoner, recognises the new element which has now been introduced into the whole business, and even goes so far as to describe it as "a discrepant factor". It goes on to justify this departure in two respects. The policy concerning parole has always recognised that it might be against the public interest to release persons convicted of certain crimes. Secondly, the introduction of parole occurred at a time when faith in the so-called "treatment" model remained strong, but this has now faded, so that more room is found for concepts of deterrence and retribution. Quite apart from the fact that parole provides evidence of the continuing success of the "treatment" model, in that more people are kept from re-offending when released on parole than when they are released without it, may I draw attention to another consideration? Research findings show that parole works well for all categories of risk. High-risk prisoners do rather better on parole than medium and low-risk prisoners, but all are less often reconvicted. Insofar as danger to the public is a consideration, parole reduces risk. Anyone who saw the recent television documentary on sex offenders in Maidstone prison cannot fail to have been impressed with the need for such prisoners to be released with help and support such as a parole licence might provide. It seems hard to justify denying parole to such offenders in the last stages of their sentence. Parole has indeed a part to play in safeguarding society, whatever one's views may be about the rehabilitative ideal. Yours faithfully, J. E. HALL WILLIAMS, The London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, Houghton Street, WC2, December 12.

Grenada resignation

From Mr Anthony Rushford
Sir, Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Grenada, who was an ardent advocate of human rights when opposition leader at the constitutional conference in London leading to the independence of her country, has recently stated publicly that I should not have been sent to Grenada by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Shridath Ramphal, and the legal adviser to the Governor General of Grenada. Her statement was presumably prompted by my resignation on a point of principle as legal adviser to the interim government of Grenada responsible for legal affairs on December 4. At the same time I had also placed my resignation from my appointment as Attorney General in the hands of Mr Nicholas Braithwaite, the acting chairman of the interim government. As a result of my mission to Grenada, a constitutional civil government was restored in that island on November 13, a fortnight after my arrival, and the independent constitution, suspended by Maurice Bishop on March 22, 1979, was brought back into force to the greatest extent possible at that date, including of course the chapter on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedom. Yours sincerely, TONY RUSHFORD, Antigua, December 13.

House conveyancing

From the Chairman of the Bar
Sir, In the current upsurge of debate over Mr Austin Mitchell's Bill, it seems pertinent to observe that as recently as 1979 the Royal Commission on Legal Services (the Benson Commission), having deliberated upon the matter for three years, came to the conclusion, by a majority of two to one, that the public interest in England and Wales (whatever might be the position in Scotland) would best be served by retaining, for the time being at least, the present restrictions upon conveyancing in relation to a comprehensive review and reform of the whole system of land transfer, including problems relating to conveyancing. Such a review is surely a matter for a full Law Commission study (taking into account all legitimate interests) followed by appropriate Government-sponsored legislation, rather than for a private member's Bill which, however well-intentioned, deals only piecemeal with a part of the overall picture. Insofar as the proposals in the present Bill relating to conveyancing are intended to promote competition, then the recent relaxation of The Law Society's rules of conduct on advertising should go a long way to achieve this end, without the necessity for further legislation. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, MICHAEL WRIGHT, Chairman, The Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar, 11 South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C1, December 9.

Survival of the fittest

From Professor R. Y. Calne, FRS
Sir, Rugby is a game of speed, skill, excitement and courage - these are the reasons for its enormous and growing popularity. Sadly, thuggery has also become part of the game for a few individuals. Some of the incidents in the recent England - All Blacks game were a travesty of the spirit of rugby, the England team entering the dressing room looked more like survivors of a bomb blast than a victorious international side, as one after another appeared with blood-stained clothes and open wounds. Deliberate fouls are usually penalized with a free kick as for an offside infringement, but instead of being tolerated and used by some players as a "calculated risk", dangerous fouling could be eliminated. A deliberate kick or punch in the head should be likely to lead to a lost match. An automatic four-points penalty try and the offender sent off for the rest of the match would have a rapid beneficial effect. I was told recently by an international referee that if referees interpreted the rules in this way they would no longer be invited to officiate. Unless the rugby authorities decide to adopt such a policy the great game will sink in stature and enjoyment for players and spectators. Yours faithfully, R. Y. CALNE, University of Cambridge Clinical School, Department of Surgery, Level 9, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge, December 7.

A matter of title

From the Rector and Vice-Provost of the Royal College of Art
Sir, In the course of research for the exhibition "Albert: his life and work", currently mounted at my college, I came across the Prince Consort's speech to the British Association for the Advancement of Science given at Aberdeen in 1859. He told his audience: "From amongst the political sciences it has been attempted in modern times to detach one which admits of being severed from individual political opinions, and of being reduced to abstract laws derived from well authenticated facts. I mean Political Economy... A new Association has recently been formed, initiating our perambulating habits, and striving to comprehend in its investigations and discussions over a still more extended range of subjects, in what is called 'Social Science'." These efforts deserve our warmest approbation and goodwill. Who better to speak of Victorian values on this matter than Prince Albert? Thatcherologists may detect, in her Secretary of State's decision to omit the word "Science" from the title of that research council responsible for social studies, some incipient U-turn to another and less resolute approach. Yours faithfully, LIONEL MARCH, Rector's Lodge, Royal College of Art, Jay Mews, SW7, December 13.

Children and the Pill

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Castle Point (Conservative)
Sir, The statement made by Dr John Havard, Secretary of the BMA, Social Services Correspondent (December 2) on the subject of the issuing of contraceptive drugs and devices to children without their parents' consent cannot go without challenge. Over 530 petitions have so far been presented to Parliament drawing attention to the views of the many hundreds of thousands of parents who are not only concerned but outraged at this practice. They are calling in no uncertain terms for the Government to take action immediately to protect their children from both the medical and emotional harm which such drugs and devices may cause. Dr Havard is reported as having said that if doctors were prevented from issuing contraceptives to their children there would be a corresponding increase in the number of unwanted teenage pregnancies. He ought to know that it is an accepted fact that readily available contraception to the young has corresponded with a dramatic increase in the number of abortions performed on young girls. There are two main reasons for this - namely that teenagers do not make good candidates for the regular self-administration of drugs and that freely available contraception leads to an increase in promiscuity amongst the young. Ironically, Dr Havard's statement has coincided with the announcement that both the rates of abortion and illegitimate pregnancies have reached record levels in this country. Yours faithfully, BERNARD BRAINE, House of Commons, December 6.

Paddington derailment

From the Rev John Curtis
Sir, One can perhaps imagine a Swindon-trained railwayman leaving your correspondent (November 24) with the impression that the "back-eye" coupling system is new. However, no fan of the London and North Eastern Railway could allow such a false record to pass unremarked. Sir Nigel Gresley used them wherever possible; his predecessor on the Great Northern Railway as Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, E. F. Howden, introduced the Gould Centre complex to the East Coast main line in 1889. Perhaps there were earlier examples in Britain. Certainly they are a century old across the Atlantic - and fortunately still saving life and limb. Yours faithfully, F. J. CURTIS, The Vicarage, Church Road, Claverton, Warwick, November 24.

Sir Oswald and Jews

From Lord Sieff of Brimpton
Sir, With reference to your article in *The Times* of Tuesday, December 13, "Sir Oswald and the Jews", my late father, Israel Sieff, was the co-founder in 1931 of PEP (Political and Economic Planning). In 1932 Sir Oswald told father he wanted PEP, with whose work he was impressed, to put themselves at the disposal of his New Party and become what today we would call its "think tank". He explained he was a political leader in a hurry and would

Cremation fees

From Mr David Cargill
Sir, The doctor's fee for a certificate needed before a dead body is cremated (Family Money, December 3) is not £32, but £16. The total of £32 arises from the need for two separate certificates, one by the doctor who attended the deceased and one by another who is neither a partner nor a relative of the former. When I qualified in 1938 the fees were one and two guinees respectively. Then as now there was no fee for the ordinary death certificate, which is all that is needed for burial. Yours etc, DAVID CARGILL, 24 High Street, Maldon, Essex, December 7.

Missing the bus

From Mr S. A. Watson
Sir, Readers of your Friday back page article, "Deserted village mourns vanishing bus" (December 9) may have noticed that the "vanishing bus" pictured looked suspiciously empty. Any such suspicion is well founded: a similar service runs past my front door. The bus that plies its long and broad and capacious is sometimes carries a passenger. Yours faithfully, S. A. WATSON, The Padlock, North Elmham, Dereham, Norfolk, December 9.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Casino merger game spins to a standstill

The Monopolies Commission has, much as expected, turned down the Pleasurama Trident merger on the grounds that the threats it would pose to competition in London's casino land are against the public interest. Yesterday's decision, which has been accepted by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, takes both companies and the third party in this tangled affair, Grand Metropolitan, back to square one, as far as the gaming business in London is concerned.

The commission's verdict was not a majority one - there was one dissenting voice on the six-man team - but the majority clearly came down on the side of the Gaming Board, which opposed the merger, and against Pleasurama and Trident, whose £55m agreed deal to merge was first announced last March.

The stated reasons for the decision are that the merger would increase concentration of ownership in London's casino business to an unwelcome degree, and would also make it even harder for new entrants to join what is already a highly regulated business. On the face of it, this was a curious finding since the merger itself would, on the commission's figures, have produced a company with five out of London's 19 casinos but only 23 per cent of the "drop" or money staked. (This awesome sum reached £894m in London in the last year.)

This is where Grand Met - which controls six casinos and 44 per cent of the drop - comes into the picture. The whole key to the commission's verdict is its acceptance of the argument that Pleasurama would effectively allow it to exercise undue influence over the new merged company, thereby obtaining control over two-thirds of the capital's casino business. The fact that GrandMet itself pressed this argument on the commission arguing that

Rules for a trading union

The Stock Exchange has got down to tackling the fine detail of how stockbrokers and stockjobbers may begin competing with the American banks dealing internationally in overseas securities.

A final debate on the draft rules is likely on Tuesday, after which a period of consultation will be needed. Proposed is the ability for brokers and jobbers to join forces in international... dealing partnerships.

Part of the promise made by Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, to Mr Cecil Parkinson, former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was that the exchange would look much more international.

The basis of these untested broker/jobber unions are of paramount importance. This is the first example of what will effectively be dual capacity with brokers and jobbers allowed to give net prices, deal with anyone, but charge no commission.

The ability to act both as a principal and an agent in Britain has hitherto been restricted to Eurobond and financial futures dealers.

Rules covering these international dealerships may well prove a basis for other changes as the exchange moves

NEWS IN BRIEF

EuroRoute 'ahead' in channel link

EuroRoute, the Anglo-French project to provide a rail-road channel link, claimed a significant lead over rival schemes yesterday with the announcement of the formation of a joint French company to promote the concept.

Alstom-Atlantique, the state-owned shipbuilding company, the Grands Travaux de Marseille, one of France's largest private sector construction groups, have joined forces to develop the scheme.

In Britain, EuroRoute has been promoted for the last two years by a consortium comprising British Shipbuilders, the British Steel Corporation, Trafalgar House, Fairclough Construction, John Howard and Raymond International (USA) with Lazard Brothers as financial advisers.

Bulmers, the cider maker, reported half-time profits up 27 per cent from £7.23m to £9.17m. But shares fell 23p to 248p when Mr Esmund Bulmer, chairman, said growth in the second half was unlikely to match the first half.

British Telecom said the Government will relieve it of a £1.25 billion pension deficit, dating back to 1969, when the corporation is privatized next year. The Government's proposal, tabled in a legislative amendment, means the pension liability will remain with a residual nationalized portion of the telecommunications industry.

Westland increased its profits from £23.9m to £26.1m last year on a turnover up from £244m to £262m. The dividend has been increased from 7.5p to 8.25p.

Investors' Notebook, page 17.

Gulf Oil is looking at the economics of acquiring Superior Oil but has not made any decisions Mr James Lee, chairman told securities analysts

Banks' delay rules out Brazil loan this year

By John Lawless

There is now no hope that the \$6.5 billion new money loan for Brazil can be made by December 31 - a date seen as essential only a month ago.

Today is the deadline for banks to commit themselves and, with more than 200 small banks still withholding promises, the 10 days of documentation processing could not be finished in time.

Failure to meet the deadline could start an international argument.

The US banks fear that, if the loan is not made by December 31, Brazil will not be able to meet outstanding interest payments on old loans within 90 days.

Banks elsewhere fear that Brazil may direct payments towards the US at their expense - and are refusing to bail out the Americans with help on a bridging loan that would allow

the rescue package, less than \$300m short of its target, to continue into the New Year.

But the most important Brazilian banker involved in the negotiations said yesterday that he believed that an important dispute would be avoided.

My Guy Huntrods, head of Lloyds Bank International's Latin American division, and deputy chairman of the 14-bank advisory committee on Brazil, returned to London yesterday from a Middle East loan-raising tour with Brazil's planning minister, Senhor Antonio Delam Netto.

He said: "I do not consider it by any means inconceivable that Brazil will be able to reduce arrears, right across the board, to comply with maturity dates within the critical 90-day period."

Allianz and BAT up stakes in tit-for-tat takeover battle

By Jeremy Warner

Both Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, and BAT Industries, the British tobacco and retailing empire, raised their record-breaking takeover bids for Eagle Star yesterday.

But the moves were seen in the stock market as mere sorties in the battle for control which is not expected to reach its climax until next week.

Allianz was first to act. Complying with Takeover Panel rules that it must meet a promise to top BAT's £914m bid, it raised the ante marginally to £917m - 665p a share - at 9.30 am. Ninety minutes later, BAT was back again with a £934m bid worth 675p a share.

This was immediately recommended to shareholders by the Eagle Star board of directors which has persistently backed BAT as the preferred suitor and spurned the attempts of the West German company to win agreed takeover terms.

Eagle Star shares, apparently oblivious to the day's developments, continued to trade on the stock market at prices



Sir Denis Mountain: "Irrelevant questions."

substantially greater than the latest offers.

The price closed just 2p lower at 717p in the belief that the bidding will not end until a value of £1 billion - worth 724p a share - is reached.

Allianz made clear that it was still to decide what level of bid it should make. It said it was well advanced in its full review of the £1 billion would be made next week.

Allianz said that it was still committed to pursuing the takeover bid in spite of BAT's offer and it urged Eagle Star shareholders not to sell their shares in the stock market.

The significance of this statement was not lost on dealers who said it indicated a willingness by Allianz to pay more than 717p a share.

The Takeover Panel is also said to be taking a keen interest in this statement, made immediately after BAT raised its offer since it could be taken as an indication of intentions.

The seriousness of Allianz's fight for control appeared to be underlined in the City where a

£3000m syndicated loan was being arranged on its behalf.

Allianz again wrote to Sir Denis Mountain yesterday requesting further information. Failure to provide this could deprive shareholders of the best possible price for their shares, it said.

Sir Denis said last night that he had not had time to study

the letter adequately but he saw no reason why his position should change. "These are irrelevant questions, frankly," he said.

The letter requests clarification on why the Eagle Star board considers it has a better future with BAT than with Allianz, asks for what assurances would be necessary to win approval from the Eagle Star board and on what basis a higher offer from Allianz would draw a recommendation from the Eagle Star board. It also requests information on business prospects.

Mr George Magan, a director of Morgan Grenfell, Allianz's merchant bank adviser, said he found it surprising that BAT had not already asked or the kind of information that Allianz was requesting. "These are straightforward questions about the business," he said.

This drew a firm rebuttal from Lazard Brothers director, Mr Tom Manners, who is advising BAT. "If they mind their business, we will mind ours," he said.

Wages outstrip inflation

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Average earnings are still running ahead of the rate of inflation, and are being boosted by more overtime and less short-time working.

Figures published yesterday by the Department of Employment show that average earnings grew at an underlying rate of 7.5 per cent in the year to October. This compares with the latest inflation figure of 5 per cent, but is unchanged from the previous two months' earnings figures.

The department calculates that extra hours in the form of overtime and reduced short-time working accounted for up

Home loans cash still flowing in

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Savings continued to flow into the building societies last month, enabling them to keep lending at near-record levels and further build their reserves.

However, with demand for mortgages still strong, there is no sign of an early cut in the mortgage rate from 11.25 per cent.

Net receipts last month of £870m were below the record of £987m reached the previous month. But the receipts were still the best for a November and the societies also raised a further £249m net by issuing bonds and certificates of deposit in the City.

Normally, savings deposits decline in the run-up to Christmas, but the attractive interest rates offered by the building societies has helped to keep the money coming in and net receipts have topped £800m in each of the last three months.

The societies have still consolidated their liquidity although mortgage lending by them was the second highest on record last month at £1,710m, and a further £1,836m was promised to homebuyers. Their liquidity ratio, down as low as 17.1 per cent in June, has now risen to a comfortable 19.5 per cent.

But Mr Richard Weir, secretary-general of the Building Societies Association hinted yesterday that the societies could not afford to lower their interest rates.

It was likely, he said, that lending records would soon be broken and added: "Mortgage demand remains strong for the time of year, and in order to meet this demand, societies will continue to need the high level of savings."

Uncertainties over the pound and domestic interest rates may discourage the building societies from considering an early move on the mortgage rate.

Objection by Britoil to shipyard takeover

From Our Correspondent Glasgow

A scheme to save part of the troubled Scott Lithgow yard on the lower Clyde, which would involve a temporary takeover by its main customer, Britoil, was described as "unacceptable" by the oil company yesterday.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and Mr Graham Day, British Shipbuilders' chairman, are expected to discuss the scheme in London today.

But, in a terse statement, Britoil said: "This is not an option which is under consideration."

Britoil is believed to be only days away from cancelling its order for a £86m oil rig, which is only a quarter finished, at the yard. The rig is already two years behind schedule.

Britoil says the only option it would consider are renegotiation of the contract, or cancellation with the order being reassigned to a Japanese or South Korean yard.

However, Mr Day has already ruled out renegotiation, claiming that British Shipbuilders cannot afford any further penalty payments above the £6.5m it already owes Britoil.

The scheme, believed to be under consideration by the Scottish Office, would require Britoil to activate a bankruptcy protection clause in the existing contracts.

It would allow Britoil to complete the rig with its own workforce at the Scott Lithgow site. Although the scheme would reduce the number of workers at the yard from 4,200 to 800, it is believed that a successful completion would leave the yard ripe for privatization.

The scheme has also met with hostility from the unions and the local Labour MP, Dr Norman Godman.

He said: "It is unacceptable for the yard to close or for its workforce to be run down."

Cancellation by Britoil would mean closure for the yard.

Posgate suspended for six more months

By Jonathan Clark

Mr Ian Posgate, whose business acumen as an underwriter once earned him the nickname "Goldfinger", has been suspended by Lloyd's of London again.

The new suspension is for six months and will run from Boxing Day, when an earlier suspension was due to expire.

The suspensions are what Lloyd's terms "administrative" rather than punitive and are to give the Lloyd's investigations committee more time to consider the conclusions of the inquiry into the Alexander Howden affair.

The investigations committee is expected to decide whether disciplinary charges should be brought against Mr Posgate and four former directors of Howden early in the New Year.

Mr Posgate did not give evidence personally at yesterday's sub-committee meeting, but written representations from his solicitors were considered.

A Lloyd's spokesman said: "We know we are depriving him of his livelihood, so this decision was not taken lightly."

Mr Posgate is said to have earned £700,000 a year before his suspension.

But the spokesman was unable to confirm that copies of the report into the Howden affair, said to run to 500 pages, had been passed to the Department of Trade and Industry.

No decision has yet been taken on whether the report will be sent to "names" (members) affected by the affair. Lloyd's is keen to restrict its circulation to avoid legal problems.

Mr Posgate has already said he considers the report defamatory to himself but has been advised that the rules of "qualified privilege" make successful legal action unlikely.

The report is understood to concentrate on alleged violations of exchange controls and inland revenue legislation.

If any of the five who figure in the report are charged by Lloyd's, their cases will be heard by the disciplinary committee which can either drop the case or take punitive measures which include expulsion. Appeals against punishments can be made to a tribunal chaired by Lord Wilberforce.



Ian Posgate: deprived of his livelihood.

Profits soar at S & N

By Wayne Lissett

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries again backed the downward trend of the brewery sector reporting bumper interim profits with an optimistic forecast that the full year results should show further progress.

The company is taking the opportunity of falling interest rates - borrowings and fiscal credits were cut £2.3m - to maintain capital expenditure on expanding canned beer sales and its expansion into hotels.

The mild weather has helped beer sales, canned beers particularly although draught sales

were static, while the tied public houses also made progress.

Thistle Hotels, with a 90 per cent jump in profitability, made the most impressive showing. Among the wine and spirits division progress was much slower, particularly Scotch whisky sales.

Investors stay away

The equity market ran for shelter yesterday as most of the activity in the City continued to centre on the money market where the pound was again having a bad time.

Turnover almost dried up to a trickle and this was reflected in the FT Index which having been 1.5 down, closed 0.5 up at 751.1. With Christmas near investors appear in no rush to open new positions and the market is expected to drift gently lower until the New Year.

Market report, page 16

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Abbey National have a haven for roll-up money



Seven Day Account pays 8.25% net!

New taxation laws seem certain to make offshore "roll-up" funds a lot less attractive from January 1st. Now's the time to consider the alternatives. Where else can you enjoy a high return with ready access to your money? If you are a taxpayer, you will have to look a long way to beat the current rate offered by Abbey National's Seven Day Account.

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RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

PLANTATIONS

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

MISCELLANEOUS

Company	Price	Yield
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104	10.4
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Telecom (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Gas (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4
British Overseas Airways (10p Ord (115a))	104	10.4

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Bitter pill for Mr Cube

Shares of Tate & Lyle ended the day on a bitter note yesterday tumbling 7p to 373p as a large chunk of shares changed hands and sent a shudder of apprehension through Mr Cube's boardroom.

Broker Hoare Govett arranged a put through of 2.75 million shares, around a tenth of the equity, at the 370p level. Word is the shares, worth £10.1m, were part of a stake built up by Lord Hanson's, Hanson Trust, which is presently sitting on more than £400m in cash. The shares may have been sold to one buyer.

Mr James Forbes, finance director at Tate & Lyle, said he was aware of the transaction and understood the seller to be one of the group's nominee shareholders. Asked if he knew the mystery buyer Mr Forbes replied, "It takes a few days to find these things out. We will be looking at the share register."

Hanson has never admitted to owning any shares in T & L. The declared level is 5 per cent. Mr Martin Taylor, a director at Hanson, said, "We never comment on this sort of speculation."

After the successful acquisition of UDS Group for £260m earlier this year, Hanson recently

Shares of Hanson closed at 267p last night. Bid speculation continued to act as the only spur for interest in the rest of the equity market in the run up to Christmas. The FT Index having been 1.5 lower earlier in the day closed with a net gain of 0.5 at 751.1.

On the foreign exchange the pound continued to plumb new depths on increased fears of imminent cut in the North Sea oil price - a suggestion vehemently denied by BNOOC. But in Rotterdam the spot oil price continued to fall below the official price level. The pound ended the day 25 points down at a second low against the dollar of \$1.4170.

Gills joined in the shakeout with falls of up to 50p at the longer end in nervous trade, but managed to close below their worst levels of the day as a few bargain hunters appeared on the scene.

Among blue chips BOC Group, the industrial gases group, made star billing with a leap of 13p to a new high of 277p helped by renewed demand for the shares from New York. A group of City analysts recently returned from a trip to the group's troubled US operation and reported signs of a pick-up.

Metal Box was another

IMI

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IMI plc, Birmingham, England

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

STERLING: SPOT AND FORWARD

Money Market Rates

Rate	Value
3 months	10.4
6 months	10.4
12 months	10.4

Other Markets

Market	Value
Gold	1,370.00
Silver	1,370.00
Platinum	1,370.00

Dollar Spot Rates

Country	Rate
USA	1.4170
Canada	1.4170
Japan	1.4170

Euro \$ Deposits

Term	Rate
1 month	10.4
3 months	10.4
6 months	10.4

Gold

Price	Value
Gold	1,370.00
Silver	1,370.00
Platinum	1,370.00

SHIPPING

Shipping Rates

Company	Rate
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104

MINES

Mining Stocks

Company	Price
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Financial Trusts

Company	Price
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104

INSURANCE

Insurance Stocks

Company	Price
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104

PROPERTY

Property Stocks

Company	Price
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104

PLANTATIONS

Plantation Stocks

Company	Price
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104

MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous Stocks

Company	Price
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Unlisted Securities

Company	Price
Amplified Holdings (10p Ord (115a))	104
BP 25p Ord (44d (115a))	104
British Petroleum (10p Ord (115a))	104

EURO \$ DEPOSITS

Euro \$ Deposits

Term	Rate
1 month	10.4
3 months	10.4
6 months	10.4

EURO \$ DEPOSITS

Euro \$ Deposits

Term	Rate
1 month	10.4
3 months	10.4
6 months	10.4

EURO \$ DEPOSITS

Euro \$ Deposits

Term	Rate
1 month	10.4
3 months	10.4
6 months	10.4

EURO \$ DEPOSITS

Euro \$ Deposits

Term	Rate
1 month	10.4
3 months	10.4
6 months	10.4

EURO \$ DEPOSITS

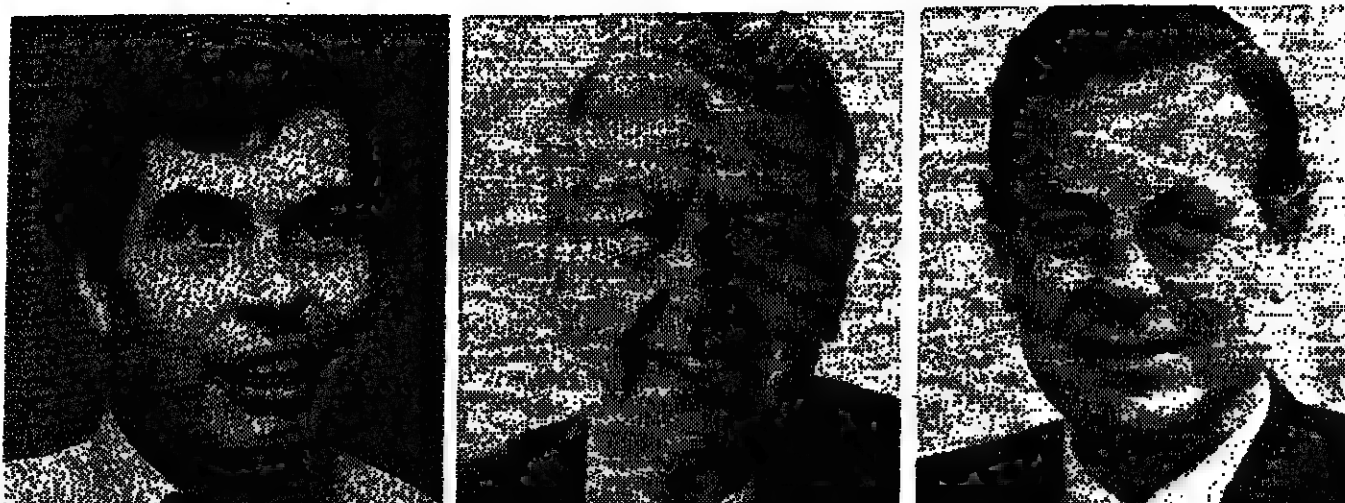
Euro \$ Deposits

Term	Rate
1 month	10.4
3 months	10.4
6 months	10.4

مكتبة الأصل

With memories of the Britoil flop Jonathan Davis looks at the next big sell-off issue

Enterprise Oil flotation must resolve problem of pricing



Graham Hearne (left), Peter Walker and William Bell. Crucial question is how Enterprise develops after flotation

The run-in to the Government's next great privatization issue, the flotation of Enterprise Oil, is now firmly under way. The appointment a few days ago of Mr Graham Hearne as chief executive of the fledgling company is the most crucial step so far on the way to what promises to be one of the most intriguing - and delicate - sell-offs that the Government has yet undertaken. The next step will be announced shortly when the Government says which two stockbroking firms it has appointed to join Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank as its advisers.

A "beauty contest" to pick the two firms was held two weeks ago, and the fact that the Government has felt the need to take the unusual step of appointing broking advisers six months before the issue is scheduled to take place reflects its awareness that the ground for this flotation needs to be carefully prepared.

This is because Enterprise Oil is an unusual beast. The company was set up this year to hold the proven North Sea oil assets of British Gas, including the corporation's stake in five proven commercial fields and a clutch of exploration licences issued under previous administrations.

The Government's decision to force British Gas to dispose of its oil assets has been resisted fiercely by the corporation's board and its chairman Sir Dennis Rooke since the legislation was first announced in July 1981 by Mr Nigel Lawson, then Energy Secretary.

By a nice irony, the task of completing the privatization process has fallen to Mr Lawson's successor as Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, a man who does not always agree with Mr Lawson on the subject of privatization.

It was Mr Walker who took the final decision three months ago to float the assets on the stock market as a single company rather than sell them off piecemeal to other oil companies.

Part of the reasoning behind the decision was a desire to create another middle-ranking British oil company, which, with luck, will be able to develop to fill the gap between the oil companies such as BP and Shell and the pool of smaller independent exploration companies such as Charterhouse Petroleum, Clyde Petroleum and Tricentrol.

This was a course that was also followed with the flotation of Britoil last year, an unhappy experience that has not made any easier the task of presenting the City with another state-owned oil company.

Memories of the disastrous underwriting flop with Britoil has left many institutions distinctly wary. Enterprise is in many ways a more attractive animal than Britoil, but the unusual nature of its origins have posed their own difficulties.

The company is rich in assets and cash flow, but as a newly-created - effectively "off the shelf" - company, it had no management until a few months ago and has no trading record as an independent company.

This marks it out from previous privatization issues, including Britoil. For example, Mr Walker and Kleinwort Benson will have to ask for a dispensation from the Stock Exchange to allow the company to seek a full market listing without having met the normal requirements for disclosure of financial information.

The only set of figures Enterprise is likely to produce before flotation is a *pro forma* trading statement covering the eight months from May to the end of this month.

The Government has been quick to find the kernel of a management team. For the last three months the company has been run from borrowed offices in Fenchurch Street under two seconded directors, Mr Peter Elwes, a director of Kleinwort, and Mr Julian West, a young, but highly able assistant secretary, from the Department of Energy.

This was always intended as an interim move, and Mr Walker has now announced the appointment of Mr William Bell, a director of Shell, as non-executive chairman, and Mr Hearne as full-time chief executive.

One of the first tasks facing Mr Hearne, who will take over on March 1 at a salary more than £80,000 a year, will be to build a team of 35 to 40 people, including about 20 exploration specialists such as geologists.

Financially, the final shape of the company will depend on the way in which the Government agrees to establish its capital structure.

The company is generating positive cash flow at a considerable rate, but is not yet clear whether the Treasury will endeavour to claw back the estimated £80m surplus the company is expected to have accumulated since the beginning of May.

Next year the surplus is expected to rise to £100m at least, and continue rising before peaking at more than £200m in 1986, reflecting the build-up of production from its five main fields.

The figures illustrate that Enterprise Oil is going to be financially healthy, but since they exclude taxation, interest and any capital spending the new company makes, they are only the roughest of guides of its likely profitability.

Enterprise Oil's North Sea production (000 barrels a day)

Field	Share %	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Fulmer	1.584	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.1
Beryl	10.0	7.5	7.5	12.5	12.0	11.5	10.7	10.1	9.5
Hutton NW	25.77	14.5	25.87	25.87	25.8	22.9	19.1	16.0	13.4
Montrose	30.77	4.3	4.0	8.4	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.5
Mutton	10.31	-	-	-	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	7.9
		27.7	35.4	48.3	52.2	48.3	43.5	38.1	34.4

Source: de Zeeuw and Berman

The crucial question about Enterprise is how it develops once it has been floated. Mr Walker knows that if the company is to be sold successfully as a flourishing new British oil company, the management must demonstrate the ability to build on - rather than squander - the valuable cash flow with which it has been invested.

For tax reasons, as well, it is imperative for Enterprise to expand its exploration interests as rapidly as possible. From next year onwards it will otherwise face substantial charges for both Petroleum Revenue Tax and Corporation Tax as first North West Hutton and then the Beryl field reach peak production.

Mr Hearne said this week that he will be looking urgently at the options for tax efficient expansion, including acquisitions and "farm-ins" to other companies exploration acreage.

There is no shortage of acquisition candidates, particularly among the smaller British exploration companies, many of which are undergoing a painful period of readjustment.

Tricentrol and Carless Capel - Mr Hearne's two previous oil company employers - are certain to figure on the list of possible candidates, although neither is the perfect match for

Enterprise on tax grounds. The company will also be bidding strongly for licences in the North Sea round, expected next year, and will be keen to acquire operator status, as opposed to its present role as a minority partner in the North Sea.

It will also be looking overseas. Apart from the tiny Arbroath discovery, Enterprise's batch of inherited North Sea licences is also thought to contain a potentially commercial discovery near the Forties field. Tax reasons again make it attractive for the company to develop a new North Sea field as quickly as possible.

All of which adds up to a hatful of potential. Unlike Britoil, which was overloaded with assets and drilling commitments, and burdened with a debt-heavy balance sheet, Enterprise looks like starting life with considerable freedom of manoeuvre and a virtually clean balance sheet. This is bound to be attractive to the market.

On the other hand, with no track record to look at and the promise of a series of deals coming to fruition immediately after the flotation, investors who buy the Government's shares will inevitably be taking a plunge into the dark.

Brokers in the City have, meanwhile, been hammering home the point that the success of the flotation - and the company - will hinge even more than usual on what faith the institutions place on the ability of the management to strike the right deals at the right price.

Initial reaction to the first management appointments has been mixed. Mr Hearne, a Rothschild's man who moved on to be finance director of Courtaulds from 1977 to 1981, has a reputation as tough negotiator and deal-maker.

He admits that his technical knowledge of the industry is limited, and oil analysts and fund managers are divided about what sort of success he achieved in his two years at Tricentrol, before his sudden resignation this year.

It is a tight schedule. The main problem for Mr Walker and his advisers at Kleinwort Benson, looks like being pricing the issue correctly.

Today's provisional estimates that the flotation will raise £400m may well prove to be out by some margin.

Enterprise on tax grounds.

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Financial notebook

New horizons for discount houses

The City has been alive with rumour and speculation over mergers and takeovers in the financial industry ever since the Government struck its deal with the Stock Exchange to exempt it from the requirements of the Office of Fair Trading.

But one corner of the square mile virtually ignored in the present feverish mood is the discount market.

This is rather odd because behind the arcane image of the discount houses lies a wealth of talent and expertise in managing liquidity and dealing in short-term securities and financial instruments.

The popular notion that the houses are more akin to stuffy gentlemen's clubs which the Bank of England finds convenient to preserve may still contain a grain of truth in some cases. But the best of them employ some of the sharpest brains in the City and have grown through innovation and skill in taking positions in the markets in which they operate.

Traditionally, the discount houses have been the market-makers in Treasury bills and sterling bank bills - a market which is now worth about £12 billion. Several of them also make a market in certificates of deposit and they are dual-capacity operators in numerous other securities. Recently the three biggest houses have begun to deal in the increasingly popular floating-rate note market.

Given their expertise in short-term financial instruments and skills as market-makers, it is not hard to see how a discount house might fit into a broader financial group seeking to offer a full range of services in the securities markets to customers.

Indeed market-making skills are certain to be at a premium if, as many believe inevitable, the introduction of negotiated commissions on the Stock Exchange leads to dual-capacity trading. It would be easy to imagine, for instance, discount houses becoming market-makers in the short end of the gilt market if regulations allowed.

Of course any discussion about the future of the 18 discount houses returns eventually to the Bank of England which uses its bill market dealings with the houses to regulate the level of liquidity in the banking system as a whole. By providing lender-of-last-resort facilities to the houses, the Bank enjoys a unique hold over this sector of the financial industry. Without it a discount house would not be able to operate.

It is no secret that the Bank would like to see more mergers among smaller discount houses to help balance the strength of the two biggest, Gerrard & National and Union Discount, which together account for about three-fifths of the market. But it is also no secret that the Bank has no wish to see the amount of capital employed in the market greatly increased.

The Bank's attitude has meant that rights issues for discount houses have in effect been ruled out, save in exceptional circumstances, and it has always been assumed that the Bank would never countenance a takeover of a discount house.

The houses, meanwhile, although some have attempted to diversify on a small scale, remain relatively small. They lack resources for significant acquisitions and because of the relatively low ratings and high yields accorded to their shares, it is expensive to try to buy into new areas through acquisitions.

Whether the Bank might countenance the takeover of a discount house in the future remains to be seen.

When Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT & Northern announced it was merging with Charterhouse Group, which owned the accepting house Charterhouse Japhet, the Bank of England was certainly interested. But in the Bank's eyes the merger, which involved shareholders in both groups receiving shares in a new company, did not constitute change of control of the merchant bank.

Why shouldn't discount houses follow the same route?

Peter Wilson-Smith



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Commercial property

Mixed prospects

For those considering overseas investment in 1984, two reports - one on the US, the other on Hongkong - provide a vivid contrast of the prospects. The Hongkong property scene remains depressed by uncertainty about the colony's future, but the US market could serve investors well.

Leanne Lachman, president of the Chicago-based Real Estate Research Corporation, reports that although a high volume of funds flowing into real estate from new sources will force prices up and yields down, investors will continue to favour real estate in anticipation of future appreciation in three to six years' time. But investments should be picked with care.

RERC forecasts a strong flow of equity funds from syndicators who are active in all land uses, from savings and loans, and from public and private pension funds. In addition, mortgage funds are readily available from insurance companies and banks are keen to continue at a time when corporate borrowing is low.

Much of the investment will be directed towards sales of existing property rather than new construction.

Recent overbuilding in most large office markets means that new office construction will be low in 1984. At present the strongest big-city office locations are San Francisco, New York, Boston and Los Angeles. But offices remain popular among investors, and RERC says that shopping centres have regained their former preferential position.

About five years ago, when retailing was recognized as being overbuilt, investors moved from shopping centres to office blocks. Now it sees the balance restored, and only 300 new shopping centres are being built each year compared with 1,000 a year in the 1970s.

As if to confirm the optimistic forecast, work started this month in San Francisco on a \$45m development by Taysan Lincoln Associates, a joint venture between Taylor Woodrow of San Francisco and the Lincoln Property Company.

The development will include 402 residential units, 14,000 sq ft of retail space and a 500-car garage. It is the largest retail residential project to be started in San Francisco for 15 years.

The first units will be ready at the end of 1984 and the entire project will be completed by autumn 1985.

Hongkong, with the crucial year 1997 looming large, presents a very different picture. Knight Frank and Bailey began business in January this year, scarcely the best time for a new venture, but Mr F. Y. Kan, senior partner, has bravely said he is optimistic about the future.

He said the negotiations with Peking on the sovereignty issue and an oversupply of finished property had become apparent early in 1983, and the adverse effects were now even more marked. Since Mrs Thatcher's visit to China, the price of large domestic units and offices had dropped by 20 to 30 per cent; only smaller domestic units were maintaining their price level.

Mr Yan was nevertheless hopeful that present difficulties would soon be overcome now that it seemed progress was being made in the talks, and "particularly bearing in mind the underlying strength of the Hongkong economy and the industrious nature of the Hongkong people".

He expects the property market to stay much the same in 1984, with cautious investment, little if any involving large sums. Depending on political developments, the next upturn could come in 1987.

"By then," he said, "the world economy should have substantially recovered. Hongkong's industrialists are usually able to reap more advantage in a boom than those of other developing countries. Thus the benefits to Hongkong may be enormous - and an economic boom always leads to a property upturn."

Prudential Assurance's ambitious \$9m development of 22 Hanover Square in Mayfair has just been completed. The refurbishment, designed to create an ultra-modern office building, is suitable as prestige headquarters for any big organization, and has 90,000 sq ft of air-conditioned office and banking hall or showroom space. Letting agents Jones Lang Wootton are offering the space as a whole, for an annual rent of about £1.75m, or in floors, from 8,100 sq ft, at an annual rent of about £2.5 a sq ft.

The first phase of the Capital Interchange industrial and office development on the site of the former Brentford market has been sold for £3m to a private investor. The sale indicates a yield of nearly 6 per cent, which is believed to be a record, and reflects both the quality of the units and their location, and also the strength of the tax allowance investment market.

Christopher Warman

Handicapper takes his hat off to unbeaten El Gran Senor

By Dick Hinder

Vincent O'Brien's unbeaten colt, El Gran Senor, has been rated the leading two-year-old of 1983, with 7lb under the international classification and Free Handicap, announced by the Jockey Club yesterday.

Geoffrey Gibbs, the senior handicapper, came down heavily in favour of the Dewhurst Stakes form in evaluating the respective merits of the juveniles, and placed Rainbow Quest, beaten half a length at Newmarket, in second place, 1lb behind El Gran Senor. Guy Harwood's Lear Fan, who won a host of admirers with two flamboyant successes on Newmarket's July course, before landing the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, was allocated 9st 3lb.

Jeremy Tree, the Beckhampstead trainer, on hearing that Rainbow Quest, owned by the newly-elected Jockey Club member Khaled Abdullah, had been rated the top English-trained two-year-old, joked: "That means we will not be well handicapped next season!"

Tree said that it was early days yet to be thinking about classic trials, but that the 2000 Guinees was very much on Rainbow Quest's agenda. The Jockey Club's official, Guy Harwood, said: "We are quite happy not to be top of the handicap with Lear Fan. The only one of ours I think slightly harshly treated is Raft (10lb), who is set to give weight to Alphabitt (8st 9lb), a Group one winner."

The Middle Park Stakes winner, Cragg-An-Spor, was given 9st, but his young Lambourn trainer, Charlie Nelson, must be disappointed with the handicapper's assessment. "See 8lb, above the flying sprinter, Habibi, who is most people's favourite to win the 'Racehorse of the Year' award. Defending the allocation, Mr Gibbs said that it had been very difficult to find Habibi, as a sprinter, to the best three and four-year-olds. In the Irish



El Gran Senor (left) mastering Rainbow Quest in Dewhurst Stakes (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Derby Sharief Dancer had easily beaten Carleton, the French Derby winner and the English Derby winner, Tencos. "You cannot take away from a horse what he has achieved, even if it was in one race," he said.

After her brilliant autumn campaign in France, Canada and the United States, the Arc heroine, All Along, was an automatic choice to head the senior international classification.

She was given a rating of 92, three in front of the last year's champion, the cut will be largely offset by a big increase in sponsorship, which will take the total added money to an estimated £3.4m, only £3,500 less than in 1983.

Several major changes in the 1984 flat pattern were announced, following a meeting of the European pattern committee in Cologne last week. They are: the William Hill Sprint championship, held at York in August, upgraded from group two to group one, the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket and Royal Ascot's Queen Anne Stakes from group three to group two.

The two big juvenile races at Royal Ascot, the Coventry and Queen Mary Stakes, have been downgraded from group two to group three, as well as Newbury's John Porter Stakes, and Ascot's White Rose Stakes have been removed from the pattern.

TWO-YEAR-OLDS		THREE-YEAR-OLDS		SENIORS	
	rating		rating		rating
El Gran Senor	9.7	Shamard Dancer	93	All Along	92
Rainbow Quest	9.6	Habibul	91	Diamond Dream	91
Lear Fan	9.5	Overbrook	90	Time Charter	90
Shamard Dancer	9.2	Sam Phoenix	89	Harvest	89
Shamard Express	9.1	Tennessi	89	Lancaster	89
Cragg-An-Spor	9.0	Tobacco	87	Starline	89
Shamard	9.0	Rockford	86	Electric	89
Alonso	8.9	Conquistador Castle	84	Vulgar	89
Samuel Song	8.9	Elmington Hunt	84	Wade Team	89
Field and Ivory	8.7	Elmway	84	Sobe	88
Sadler's Walls	8.6	Adonias	84	Zakelak	88
Wood Clear	8.6	Shamard	84	Conquistador	88
Shamard	8.5	Shamard	84	Shamard	88

CRICKET

India, out before lunch, get taste of oranges and eggs from crowd

Calcutta (AFP) - Thousands of spectators booted and threatened violence as India plumped to a humiliating defeat by Australia and 46 runs in the fifth Test against West Indies, here yesterday. Armed police had to guard the Indians after they were all out for 90 before lunch - the lowest ever by India against the West Indies.

The state-owned television had to cut short an interview with the Indian captain Kapil Dev as the police force asked the television commentators to get indoors. The crowd threw oranges and eggs they had brought for their lunch, whenever they spotted an Indian cricketer. One of the victims of the 80,000 strong crowd's fury was Sunil Gavaskar's wife, who was being interviewed along with Clive Lloyd's wife, an orange hit her and she had to cut short her interview.

The West Indies fast bowler, Malcolm Marshall, ran through the Indian second innings batting finishing with his best analysis of six for 37 off 15 overs, four of which were maidens. The man of the Match Award went to Lloyd, whose mastery 161 not out in the first innings had largely contributed to the Caribbean victory.

The result was the culmination of a splendid fight-back by West Indies who left India bitterly reflecting that they let slip a good position. West Indies were reeling on 88 for five in reply to India's first innings of 241 but recovered to make 377 essentially on the strength of Lloyd's innings. The touring team's fast bowlers swiftly pressed home the advantage, despite the prospect of any early finish. Eden Gardens was packed almost to its capacity when Malhotra and Shastri returned.

It seemed for a while as if the optimism of Calcutta's cricket enthusiasts was justified as the pair held out for almost half an hour before Marshall broke through bowling Shastri. Malhotra attacked anything that was pitched up to him and hit five fives to take his score from the overnight two to 30 when he recklessly cut at short ball from

Willey to the rescue

Port Elizabeth (AP) - The West Indies' victory drew their three-day match against Eastern Province, needing 234 to win in 126 minutes and 20 overs. The West Indians had scored 181 for seven by the close of play.

Eastern Province, 72 ahead on first innings and 25 for two on the second, collapsed and never got over 161. Alvin Kalichar, an only occasional spin bowler, took four for 26.

The former England batsman, Willey, scored 45. He and Emslie, who scored 32, were the mainstay for five after the West Indian's last bowler, Harley Alleyne, had taken three wickets for seven runs in four overs.

Eastern Province 214 and 101 (10 overs) 30 not out. M. A. Alye 4 for 28. A. J. Kalichar 4 for 26. West Indies 104 for 7 (10 overs) 10 not out. M. A. Alye 4 for 28. A. J. Kalichar 4 for 26.

SKIING



Miss Quario: She let no-one stand in her way yesterday

Flawless display by Italian

Sestriere, Italy (AP) - Maria Rosa Quario, Italy's main hope for a medal in the Olympic, skied superbly yesterday on her home slope, to upset the Swiss favourite, Erika Hess, in the second women's slalom of the World Cup. Miss Quario, from Milan, recorded her fourth World Cup win, clocking the fastest time in the first run down the Kandahar course.

In the second heat, the diminutive Italian checked a strong comeback by the Austrian, Roswitha Steiner, who finished 0.33sec behind the winner, skied the second fastest time in the first run down the Kandahar course.

Miss Hess, who had triumphed in two previous cup races, finished fifth. The defending world slalom champion clocked a poor second run, and lagged 0.95sec behind. However, she clinched victory in the combined standings, and took undisputed leadership in the overall cup standings.

Yesterday's slalom was combined with last Thursday's downhill in Val d'Isere, France, in which Miss Hess was victorious. The combined and fifth place in the slalom gave Miss Hess 111 points, ahead of Erika Hess, the previous leader, who gained 10 points from the combined, but none from the slalom. Miss Epple finished third, about nine seconds behind the winner.

Monika Hess, Erika's cousin, made the podium in third place, 0.6sec behind, and Dorcas and Margareta Tialka, the Polish twins, finished fourth and sixth respectively.

Christine Cooper, of Idaho, was the best American, in seventh place. She had won the slalom in the combined standings, to pile up 34 points overall, worth eight places. The defending World Cup champion, Tamara McKinney, of California, hit a gate in the first run, and dropped out.

Miss Quario, whose victory swept away controversies triggered by recent poor showings from Italian skiers, said she was nervous at the start.

Yesterday's losers will have the opportunity for quick revenge in another slalom, at Piancavallo, in north east Italy. The organizers will again use artificial snow.

SPECIAL SLALOM: 1. M. R. Quario 86, 1min 22.96sec; 2. E. Hess 88, 1min 23.54sec; 3. M. Hess 90, 1min 23.54sec; 4. D. Tialka 91, 1min 23.54sec; 5. R. Steiner 92, 1min 23.54sec; 6. M. Tialka 93, 1min 23.54sec; 7. C. Cooper 94, 1min 23.54sec; 8. M. Epple 95, 1min 23.54sec; 9. T. McKinney 96, 1min 23.54sec; 10. M. Hess 97, 1min 23.54sec; 11. C. Cooper 98, 1min 23.54sec; 12. P. Magner 99, 1min 23.54sec; 13. P. Magner 100, 1min 23.54sec; 14. E. Hess 101, 1min 23.54sec; 15. E. Hess 102, 1min 23.54sec; 16. E. Hess 103, 1min 23.54sec; 17. E. Hess 104, 1min 23.54sec; 18. E. Hess 105, 1min 23.54sec; 19. E. Hess 106, 1min 23.54sec; 20. E. Hess 107, 1min 23.54sec; 21. E. Hess 108, 1min 23.54sec; 22. E. Hess 109, 1min 23.54sec; 23. E. Hess 110, 1min 23.54sec; 24. E. Hess 111, 1min 23.54sec; 25. E. Hess 112, 1min 23.54sec; 26. E. Hess 113, 1min 23.54sec; 27. E. Hess 114, 1min 23.54sec; 28. E. Hess 115, 1min 23.54sec; 29. E. Hess 116, 1min 23.54sec; 30. E. Hess 117, 1min 23.54sec; 31. E. 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Consecutive sentences for offences from same incident

Regina v Dillon
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Farquharson and Mr Justice Macpherson

[Judgment delivered December 13]
There was no universal rule that offences arising from the same incident should not be the subject of consecutive sentences and where circumstances demanded it cumulative or consecutive sentences should be imposed.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing in part an appeal by Vincent James Dillon, aged 33, a roofer, against sentences totalling 30 months imprisonment imposed on him at Acton Crown Court (Judge Palmer and two justices) on pleas of guilty to offences under the Road Traffic Act 1972, taking a vehicle without consent or lawful authority, contrary to section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968, driving without insurance and driving while disqualified, contrary respectively to sections 143 and 99(b) of the 1972 Act. On the appeal the total sentences, which had been imposed for the offences other than uninsured driving, were reduced to 18 months imprisonment.

Mr Justice Farquharson, giving the judgment of the court, said that at first the sentences imposed were in excess of jurisdiction but totalling 30 months. They were then varied to six months for the section 143 offence and 12 months for the section 99(b) offence, all consecutive, so that the total remained as before.

The appellant, who had spent lunch time, afternoon and evening in a public house, then remembered that he had arranged to meet his wife from her work and left the public house at 6 pm, too late to reach her in time by driving a car. By way of curing his difficulty he looked for and found a car with ignition keys in it. He took it and drove it to his home in Willesden, his driving was erratic and he was arrested. His blood-alcohol concentration was 2½ times the statutory maximum.

He had numerous convictions, some for motoring offences, an appealing record. Matters urged in his favour were that it was some extent mitigating that he was going to collect his wife because of some driving accident young women walking home in the evening. That had an air of unreality since he had spent the whole afternoon drinking and he could have gone for his wife at any time.

Council liable for injury by unsafe glass panel

Rimmer v Liverpool City Council
Before Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Purches

[Judgment delivered December 6]
The landowner, who designed or built a house or flat, was not immune from personal responsibility for faults of construction than a building contractor, or from personal responsibility for faults of design than an architect, simply because he had disposed of his house or flat by selling or letting it.

A local council, who through their architect's department designed, and through their works department built, a flat with a dangerous glass panel owed the tenant, not as tenant but, like his wife or his child, as a person who might reasonably be expected to be affected by the provision of the glass panel, a duty to take such care as was reasonable in all the circumstances to see that he was reasonably safe from personal injury caused by the glass panel.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Liverpool City Council from a judgment dated May 6, 1982, of Judge Nance, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, whereby judgment was given for the plaintiff, Mr John Rimmer, for £2,500 as damages for personal injuries.

Mr Christopher Rose, QC and Mr J. F. Appleton for the council; Mr Michael Morland, QC and Mr D. M. Harris for Mr Rimmer. LORD JUSTICE STEPHENSON, giving the judgment of the court, said that on December 28, 1975 Mr Rimmer while on his way from the lounge to the kitchen tripped over some toys of his little boy and fell forward. He put his left hand forward to try to save himself and put it through a glass panel thereby sustaining injuries to his hand and wrist.

The accident occurred at a flat which Mr Rimmer had taken from the council on a weekly tenancy in May 1974. The flat was one of a block of 24 in Boundary Street East, Liverpool, built by the council, through their direct works department, in 1959 to the same design. The all material respects. The design and construction included the glass panel which cut Mr Rimmer's hand. That panel was part of an internal wall directly opposite the lounge door and it was only 3mm thick.

The original project architect in the council's architect's department

should exercise all reasonable expedition in the removal of the individual within a reasonable time otherwise it was wrong to exercise the power of detention.

Queen's Bench Division on December 13 when considering an application for a writ of *habeas corpus* directing the governor of Durham to release the applicant forthwith pending his deportation.

Inordinate delay

Tabata v Hetherington and Others

The longer a plaintiff waited after the accrual of a cause of action before commencing proceedings the heavier was the obligation on him to proceed with his action without any unnecessary delay, Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce (sitting with Lord Justice Browne-

Public Appointments

Re-Advertisement
UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CO-ORDINATOR

Salary Scale £13,515-£16,925 p.a.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for newly-established post of Information Technology Co-ordinator. The successful applicant will be responsible for the co-ordinated support and marketing of the University's Information Technology Programme. This will consist of research and consultancy links with the industrial and business communities together with courses, seminars and workshops.

Applicants should be proponents of Information Technology and its applications, have experience in industry or business, and be able to liaise with senior management in industry and business, and with the staff of the University.

Appointments will be on Grade III (Other Related Staff) with USS benefit.

The appointment is for three years in the first instance, but renewable according to the terms indicated in the further particulars.

Application forms and further particulars (quote OR16/83) are available from the Academic Staff Office, University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ.

Closing date for applications: 14 January 1984.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Grade: SO.1 £9,060 - £9,660 p.a.

Applicants should be capable of carrying out general conveyancing transactions with a minimum of supervision and preferably have passed or be studying for the examinations of the Institute of Legal Executives. This post involves a wide variety of conveyancing work including both freehold and leasehold property transactions, mortgages and the preparation of other miscellaneous legal documents.

Relocation expenses are available in appropriate cases.

Northampton is pleasantly situated between two National Parks and is within easy reach of the well known towns of Darlington, Harrogate and the City of York, as well as the east coast resorts of Scarborough and Whitby.

Application forms are available from the Chief Executive and Clerk of the County Council, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 6AD, Tel: (0609) 3123 Ext. 522, to whom they should be returned by Tuesday 3rd January, 1984.

University of Strathclyde

Bursar

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar of the University responsible to the Principal and Vice-Chancellor for the financial management of the University and for buildings and estates. High level managerial experience and ability, and professional or academic qualifications relevant to the duties of the post, will be required. Salary at appointment will be within the range £20,000 - £25,000 per annum with USS pension benefits.

Further particulars may be obtained from:
The Registrar, The University of Strathclyde, McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ.

Applications (including curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees) must be received by the Registrar before 21 January 1984.

NON-SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS

TICKET SELLERS WANTED: Part-time for Liverpool, low cost call in London 01-252 5552.

PART-TIME VACANCIES

PART-TIME SECRETARY City area, admin skills, typing Tel: 252 5519

Devon & Cornwall Housing Association Ltd, Exeter

Secretary to The Association
Male/Female

Applicants should hold Company Secretary or appropriate legal qualification e.g. Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives. Housing Association experience and knowledge of the area an advantage.

35-hour week. Four weeks holiday.

Salary £8,000 - £9,000 per annum.

For job description and application form please apply to:
The Administrator
DCHA, 188 Sidwell Exeter EX4 6RD
Devon
Tel: (0392) 52566

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Head of Care
This is a very special position for a person who will be responsible for the care of 300 children.

The successful candidate for this challenging post should hold a professional qualification in social work or equivalent and must be a member of the Social Work profession. Previous applications will be considered.

Salary Scale £20,712 - £20,838.

An Appointment may be made above the bottom of the scale of the profession.

Further details and application form from the Bursar at the County Council Offices, Warwick, CV4 7EF. Closing date, January 1984.

Sales and Marketing

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER

SAUDI ARABIA c. £22,000

A graduate or equivalent, age 34-40, is required to head up the sales and marketing function of a new meat cutting and process plant which has just been commissioned in Jeddah. Applicants must have a minimum of 8 years' experience in the sale and market of FMCG with particular reference to chilled and further processed meat packaged for both retail and catering trades. Applicants ability to implement marketing strategy for the products of the new plant will be essential and previous Middle East or overseas experience an advantage but real ability and proven success in this field will also be required. The ability to communicate in Arabic would be an advantage. The post will initially be on bachelor status with generous leave arrangements, furnished accommodation and company car provided. The salary will be in the region of £22,000 per annum tax free plus a bonus based on the performance of the individual.

Applications including full c.v. must be handwritten and mailed to:-

THE PERSONNEL MANAGER
P.O. BOX 6697
JEDDAH 21452
SAUDI ARABIA

Botes

SALES/MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Challenging position for a person with proven sales and marketing experience. The successful candidate will be responsible for the promotion and sale of Botes products in the UK. The post involves a wide variety of sales and marketing work including both freehold and leasehold property transactions, mortgages and the preparation of other miscellaneous legal documents.

Relocation expenses are available in appropriate cases.

Northampton is pleasantly situated between two National Parks and is within easy reach of the well known towns of Darlington, Harrogate and the City of York, as well as the east coast resorts of Scarborough and Whitby.

Application forms are available from the Chief Executive and Clerk of the County Council, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 6AD, Tel: (0609) 3123 Ext. 522, to whom they should be returned by Tuesday 3rd January, 1984.

Legal Appointments are featured every TUESDAY

01-278 9161/5

Sales & Marketing Director

We are a privately owned firm of printers and card manufacturers employing some 200 employees and engaged currently in the production of generally fine quality folding cartons for the cosmetic, perfume and health care industries.

We seek the services of a person with proven ability in sales and marketing management to motivate and control existing sales personnel and who can successfully locate and exploit new markets. The salary is negotiable but it is unlikely that applicants will have the necessary experience if they are currently earning less than £15,000 p.a. A car, non-contributory pension scheme and private health insurance will be included within the remuneration package.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be addressed to Mr. Paul Wicks.

THOMAS WAIDE & SONS LTD.
Kirkstall Hill
LEEDS, LS2 3BD

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Due to maternity leave a temporary position has arisen, possibly for as long as one year, for an

ADVERTISEMENT SALES EXECUTIVE

You should be aged between 25 and 35, an enthusiastic self-motivated male/female with proven sales experience preferably in media advertising although this is not essential. A high standard of education is required.

As the position entails meeting people at senior level a professionalism in communication skills is essential.

Salary will be commensurate with age and experience.

A company car will be provided.

Although initially the job is of a temporary nature, there is a possibility that it could become permanent.

Please write with full personal and career details to John Ladbroke, Advertisement Manager, The Times Educational Supplement, Priory House, St. John's Lane, London EC1N 4BN.

Appointments

Barrister's Clerk

Applications are invited for the position of Clerk to an established barrister in chambers in Manchester.

The person appointed must be able to manage all aspects of a small office and organise the professional work of the barrister. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the chambers and will be expected to act as a link with the barrister's solicitors.

The preferred age range is 30-35. Previous experience in a similar position is essential. The successful candidate will be expected to work full time, Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. The salary is negotiable but it is unlikely that applicants will have the necessary experience if they are currently earning less than £10,000 p.a. A car, non-contributory pension scheme and private health insurance will be included within the remuneration package.

Applications in writing should include the following:

- 1) Full Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Details of present employment & salary
- 3) A recent photograph

and should be addressed to the Barrister in Chambers, 10, St. John's Lane, London EC1N 4BN.

VACANCIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

A Saudi Highway Construction Company requires:-

PROJECT MANAGERS

Degree in Civil Engineering minimum experience 10 years in highway projects.

BRIDGE & MATERIAL ENGINEERS

Degree in Civil Engineering minimum experience 10 years in highway projects.

Interested applicants must write soon with full C.V. Copies of academic qualification and experience to the following address:

Mr Mohammed S. Al-Akal
(Flat H - Hyde Park Mansions)
8 Cabell Street, London NW1

Super Secretaries

FIRST SECRETARIAL JOB

Ideally you are in your late teens or early twenties, with a good education, and a keen interest in secretarial work. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the office and will be expected to act as a link with the employer's solicitors.

The preferred age range is 30-35. Previous experience in a similar position is essential. The successful candidate will be expected to work full time, Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. The salary is negotiable but it is unlikely that applicants will have the necessary experience if they are currently earning less than £10,000 p.a. A car, non-contributory pension scheme and private health insurance will be included within the remuneration package.

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La crème de la crème

PA to US Investment Advisor

£9,500+

Hard working, self-motivated individual with organisational flair required for new Mayfair office.

Hours 10am-6pm

Cheerful, professional image with excellent secretarial skills a must. Should be non-smoker, bright (A-levels or a degree), at least 27 with previous top level experience, preferably in investment field.

Please send CV in confidence to Box 1208L The Times.

EXECUTIVE PA-SW1 TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

You would need to handle the day to day running of the membership benefits department & develop on a project basis, the existing programme for our 110,000 members. As PA/Secretary to the Vice President you will need mature, coupled with Shorthand Audio & accurate typing. Languages would be an advantage. Salary negotiable.

Contact Miss Carolyn Evans 01-428 5841

ES,000+ MARKETING RESEARCH KENSINGTON

Our Client Specialises in the Pharmaceutical World carrying out projects for International Organisations. They require an efficient PA/Secretary for their Marketing Director. He will delegate a great deal of his work to you. You must be a good administrator, with a cool head under pressure, some shorthand, fast typing, and a good knowledge of the pharmaceutical industry. There are excellent promotion prospects and the chance of a complete involvement in the work of this small enthusiastic team. Age 25-35.

01-499 0082 453 5907

ARE YOU FREE NOW?

Gloucestershire position for an experienced Secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the office and will be expected to act as a link with the employer's solicitors.

The preferred age range is 30-35. Previous experience in a similar position is essential. The successful candidate will be expected to work full time, Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. The salary is negotiable but it is unlikely that applicants will have the necessary experience if they are currently earning less than £10,000 p.a. A car, non-contributory pension scheme and private health insurance will be included within the remuneration package.

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- 2) Details of present employment & salary
- 3) A recent photograph

and should be addressed to the Barrister in Chambers, 10, St. John's Lane, London EC1N 4BN.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE IN ESTATE AGENCY WORK?

If you are ambitious and enthusiastic, we are looking for an Assistant Negotiator to work on our busy Wandsworth Common office. Salary negotiable.

Apply Miss R. Robinson 01-767 2536

PERSONAL PROGRAMME

£3,000 p.a.

Confident mature person 25+ with sound experience of Personal Office procedures, to take charge and use initiative in Music Co. Part of large group based in Essex.

Ring Bernadette Sumner on 01-491 7638 for further details

Recruitment Consultants 115, New Bond Street, London W1.

HILTON INTERNATIONAL HOTELS

SALES OFFICE SECRETARY

Busy sales office whose Sales Directors are assisted by a Sales Co-ordinator and 2 Secretaries, urgently needs a successor for 1 of the Secretaries who is leaving.

Apart from possessing sound secretarial skills including a good telephone manner we are looking for someone who is also adaptable and friendly and eager to be involved in the day to day activities of a lively Sales Office. Good opportunities for future career development. Salary £3,000 - £5,500 and employee benefits commensurate with an international company.

No Agencies

Telephone: Helen Bugler 01-603 5232 or 5233

FINE ARTS SECRETARY

£25,000

This prestigious company can offer a superb opportunity for a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to work in a senior position. A good education, secretarial skills and a keen interest in the fine arts are essential. Age 21+, good benefits include a free lunch and profit share.

Bernadette of Bond St. Recruitment Consultants 115, New Bond Street, London W1.

RECEPTIONIST

advertising if you are a mature, friendly, well educated, and efficient person. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the office and will be expected to act as a link with the employer's solicitors.

The preferred age range is 30-35. Previous experience in a similar position is essential. The successful candidate will be expected to work full time, Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. The salary is negotiable but it is unlikely that applicants will have the necessary experience if they are currently earning less than £10,000 p.a. A car, non-contributory pension scheme and private health insurance will be included within the remuneration package.

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- 2) Details of present employment & salary
- 3) A recent photograph

and should be addressed to the Barrister in Chambers, 10, St. John's Lane, London EC1N 4BN.

Exciting Opportunity

Applications are invited from Sales Managers/Sales persons who feel they can contribute to the rapid growth of the insurance industry and become part of Britain's largest insurance development company (Barratt Developments P.L.C.).

We are creating new sales opportunities throughout the UK to promote sales in Barratt Luxury holiday villages/developments. Successful applicants will be responsible for securing up to 10 new sales in the first 12 months of their appointment. The successful candidate will be expected to work full time, Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. The salary is negotiable but it is unlikely that applicants will have the necessary experience if they are currently earning less than £10,000 p.a. A car, non-contributory pension scheme and private health insurance will be included within the remuneration package.

Applications in writing should include the following:

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- 2) Details of present employment & salary
- 3) A recent photograph

and should be addressed to the Barratt Developments P.L.C., 10, St. John's Lane, London EC1N 4BN.

Super Secretaries

FIRST SECRETARIAL JOB

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Applications in writing should include the following:

- 1) Full Curriculum Vitae
- 2) Details of present employment & salary
- 3) A recent photograph

and should be addressed to the Barrister in Chambers, 10, St. John's Lane, London EC1N 4BN.

King's College School of Medicine

(University of London)

Denmark Hill
London SE5 8RX

Are you an experienced Secretary with excellent shorthand, audio and typing skills? One of our academic departments is looking for someone with a cheerful, organized approach to help with routine correspondence, typing of research papers, organisation of meetings and departmental undergraduate timetable.

Salary in the range £5,297-£7,346 p.a. Generous holidays.

Please telephone Valerie Goode for an interview and further details on 01-274 6222 ext 2040

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS

Agency 01-724 0032

RECEPTIONIST

advertising if you are a mature, friendly, well educated, and efficient person. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the office and will be expected to act as a link with the employer's solicitors.

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and should be addressed to the Barrister in Chambers, 10, St. John's Lane, London EC1N 4BN.

General Appointments

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

A baby need not cost you your job

One of the most unfortunate and harmful myths in the workplace is the concept of the "career woman". Aggressive, single-minded and "unfeminine", she abandons all ambitions of family and idyllic home life to claw her way up the corporate ladder. All other women are seen, by contrast, as unambitious, their interests revolving around home and children or grandchildren.

Although the myth clearly bears little resemblance to the reality of today's working woman, it has a powerful effect on employers' attitudes towards any woman who does not immediately return to work after having a child, leaving it in the hands of a baby minder. Few employment attitudes are conceived with the idea that women can be both mothers and career-minded. For this reason, most employers assume that the woman who leaves to bring up a young family is a lost employee. Contact with her ceases, a replacement is hired and the matter forgotten.

Now, however, there is a growing recognition that this attitude can be very short-sighted and that, even after a career break of several years, there are considerable benefits on all sides to former employees picking up again where they left off. Many jobs require a substantial training effort by the employer, an investment that is lost once the employee leaves, because, on average, women now work longer before they start their families, the amount and cost of this training is constantly increasing.

Instead of using that as a reason for discriminating against women in the provision of training, enlightened employers are recognising that they can recapture the benefits of the investment in such training by making provision for former employees to rejoin after a long break. There is an additional benefit in that the prospect of a return to work is an incentive for lower turnover, because women will be less tempted to emulate male colleagues and job hope for marginal increases in salary.

In theory, the main problem with such re-entry schemes is loss of skill. Technology and procedures change people's knowledge becomes rusty

Enlightened employers are re-engaging women who quit their jobs for motherhood, says

David Clutterbuck

and out of date. But in practice this seems to be much less of a difficulty than it is generally represented to be. Margery Povall, a researcher at the City University Business School, London, who has studied this area closely: "While there are jobs where the length of the career break can be critical - for example some high technology occupations on which six months' absence can make re-adjustment difficult - they are very rare. Most people adjust very quickly. Former employees returning to banking jobs after 10 years, for example, usually slot in immediately. Some things may have changed, but there is still so much in any occupation that remains the same".

Most of the new skills can be learned in a matter of days. Among companies, which have taken the issue seriously, is National Westminster Bank, whose re-entry scheme has impressed other banks sufficiently for them to begin planning their own. The Natwest scheme was introduced partly to retain scarce skills and partly as an active rather than a passive approach to tackling equal opportunity issues. The career break is an important factor in the disproportionate ratio of male to female bank managers.

The scheme, a long-term aim of which is to attract more bright women into Natwest, gives former employees the option to return to work for a refresher period of two weeks every year, working normal office hours at their old job or a similar one, often as relief staff during holidays or when full-time staff are absent through illness. In some instances, re-entry is guaranteed. The bank has also contacted many former employees and asked them whether they would like to return to their old jobs.

Although only a small number were able, by virtue of their domestic circumstances, to do so, all were assimilated easily.

Another large employer carefully examining re-entry is the Greater London Council. It has had for some time provisions in its employment policies for women to return to work but they were rarely used because hardly anyone knew about them. Now the council is to launch a big internal publicity campaign to make women aware of the opportunities to resume their careers.

Other initiatives being taken or discussed by the GLC Equal Opportunities Unit include provision of day-care facilities so that mothers can return to work knowing their children are being looked after near at hand, special courses to help people gain new skills to qualify for vacancies, and a review of its "family responsibility leave".

The two 50 place day-care facilities planned are insufficient for the 200 applications already received from employees who might otherwise have to quit their jobs when their babies are born, so an additional scheme to provide financial help with local nursery care is being considered.

Family responsibility leave - time off to look after sick children - may be made less restrictive, to reassure women that they will be able to take care of domestic emergencies without losing their jobs. For those who want to work only part-time while their children are young, job-sharing may be on offer.

There are, says Margery Povall, two basic approaches concerned companies can take. One is to assume there will be a lengthy career break and ease it through such re-entry schemes as that operated by Natwest. The other is to make the career break as short as possible by providing a range of flexible options for the working mother to continue her career, either part-time basis or full-time with help to mesh domestic and career responsibilities. Either way, most British employers have considerable changes in attitude and policy to make.

TRAINEE ASSISTANT EDITOR

required for London publisher of collector's journal. Applicants must be well educated, enthusiastic, and have the ability to write good, readable copy. They must also be active collectors of what books, magazines, prints, cards or some other area of ephemera. Excellent starting salary and future prospects. Write giving level details of age, education, qualifications, hobbies, employment and leaving the particular area of collecting that interests you. Send your application, together with one sample of your writing to:

Box No 00298 The Times

Cost/Estimating Engineer

Required immediately for multi-unit engineering company in Dubai, UAE. At least 10 years experience in general estimating, preferably in the oil and gas industry. Must be able to produce accurate estimates and be able to negotiate with clients. Salary to be agreed. Applications should be sent to:

The President
GMMOS, PO Box 4613
Dubai, UAE

TRADE UNION ASSISTANT SECRETARY

required by GREATER LONDON COUNCIL STAFF ASSOCIATION to be responsible for membership and publicity. Salary (including London weighting) £8,225-£11,979 starting point according to experience. Application forms from the Secretary, GLCSA, 130 Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8NL.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING BOARD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

(£20,694 - £22,569)

Following the retirement of the present post holder, the Local Government Training Board will shortly have a vacancy for an Assistant Director at its offices in Luton. Besides being a member of the Board's management team the Assistant Director will be directly responsible to the Director for the development and Resources Division of the Board. The Division's functions include the identification of future training needs, training projects (such as the New Training Initiative), the Board's information and external relations activities, the development of training materials for use by local government, overall financial planning and management of the Board's financial affairs and its computer operations. The Assistant Director will also be involved in visits to local authorities for discussions with members, chief executives and chief officers.

The successful applicant is likely to be suitably qualified and to have had considerable management (including financial management) experience. Experience and/or knowledge of local government and/or the personnel training function would also be an advantage.

The post involves considerable travelling throughout England and Wales and a car allowance is payable. A generous removal allowance is available to assist with moving home.

For further details and application form please contact the Director (AD), Local Government Training Board, 4th Floor, Arndale House, Arndale Centre, Luton, LU1 2TS. The completed application forms should be returned to the Director by 6th January 1984.

REGIONAL MANAGER

LONDON SALARY £15,000

The Association, which manages over 4,600 properties in the Midlands, East Angles, London and the South East has a vacancy for a Regional Manager to be based at its office in Victoria, London. The Region covers both Inner London and Outer London boroughs in the north of the City with an area management office at Chiswick. An energetic and enthusiastic person is needed to undertake this challenging position responsible to the Chief Executive for promoting new developments with public and private sector finance together with managing the existing housing stock of over 600 properties. An appropriate professional qualification is desirable and an ability to work under pressure and their own initiative is essential.

The post carries the following benefits:-

- Starting salary £15,000
- Annual leave of 25 days plus additional days at Bank Holidays
- Contributory pension scheme

Applications in writing giving the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:

Chief Executive
Orbit Housing Association
Queens House, Queens Road, Coventry, CV1 2EG

ORBIT HOUSING

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Requires A Bilingual Programming Analysts, (Senior Programmer)

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- Age: maximum 35 years.
- Should be willing to travel frequently abroad.

Applications - including a detailed personal curriculum - to be sent within 31st December 1983, to Box 37/N, S.P.I., Piazza San Lorenzo in Lucina 28, 00186 Roma.

TEXAS EASTERN NORTH SEA, INC.

A Texas Eastern Company



Texas Eastern North Sea, Inc. is the UK subsidiary of a major US energy corporation and is responsible for the management of extensive exploration and production interests in the UK sector of the North Sea. Having been active in the North Sea since the early 1960's, Texas Eastern's current portfolio of properties includes working interests in the Beryl, Montrose, Fulmar, N.W. Hutton, Hutton, Murchison, Leman and Indefatigable fields. In addition to these proven discoveries, the Company is participating in the delineation of several known discoveries and embarking upon the most aggressive exploration programme in the history of its North Sea involvement. In conjunction with these efforts the Company seeks to recruit the following employees for its London headquarters:

CHIEF ENGINEER

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in engineering or science, preferably petroleum engineering, coupled with at least ten years oil and gas experience (including at least four years in the North Sea). Reporting to the Director of North Sea Operations, you will be responsible for supervising a staff of reservoir and production engineers involved in the management of our North Sea assets.

CHIEF GEOLOGIST

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in geology coupled with at least ten years of relevant experience, a majority of which should have been gained with a major oil company in the North Sea. Reporting to the Manager of Exploration, you will participate in regional studies to identify and recommend the acquisition of new acreage and will also carry out detailed studies on our existing UK licences.

PRODUCTION/DRILLING ENGINEER

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in engineering, preferably petroleum engineering, coupled with at least four years drilling and production experience gained in the North Sea. Reporting to the Chief Engineer, you will be responsible for the production and drilling aspects of our non-operated UK properties.

CHIEF GEOPHYSICIST

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in geology/geophysics coupled with at least ten years relevant experience, a majority of which should have been gained with a major oil company in the North Sea. Familiarity with modern seismic techniques including acquisition and processing is essential, as is extensive interpretation experience. The position reports directly to the Manager of Exploration.

The company offers an attractive remuneration package which includes a highly competitive subsidised membership of BUPA and a non-contributory pension scheme.

To apply please write to

A. E. TONER,

c/o TEXAS EASTERN NORTH SEA, INC.,
FIFTH FLOOR, BERKELEY SQUARE HOUSE,
BERKELEY SQUARE,
LONDON W1X 5LE.

NEWSROUND

Overall recruitment in November, allowing for seasonal trends, was slightly down on October. Even so, vacancies are rising at the rate of 7 million a year - at least 25 per cent up on last year.

Vacancies flowing into Jobcentres, one third of the total, for the three months ending November numbered 200,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis. This was 24 per cent up on last year. The number of vacancies remaining unfilled was 42.3 per cent higher than last year, suggesting that many are for skills which remain scarce despite high unemployment.

Some 70 per cent of all vacancies notified to the Manpower Services Commission are in the service industries.

The number of management, professional and technical vacancies advertised in PER's weekly jobs newspaper *Executive Post* in November was 1,954 - some 200 less than in October, but 25 per cent higher than last year.

The volume of recruitment advertising in the "quality" national newspapers was 62 per cent up on November 1982. However, the *Daily*

Telegraph lost 17 London issues in November 1982 and the National Graphical Association stopped last month lost the dailies an average of two issues and the *Sunday* one issue. Allowing for these stoppages, real growth was probably nearer 55 per cent. The "popular" press showed a much smaller growth of about 14 per cent - suggesting that management, professional and technical vacancies are the most buoyant part of the recruitment market.

Philip Schofield

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO TRADE ASSOCIATION

Administrative Secretary, preferably with trade association experience, required for an International Trade Association based in South Westfordshire with members manufacturing animal feeds and human food. The appointee will be responsible to the Director General. The appointee's responsibilities will include the following: To supervise the Association's accounts day to day management and administration of general office staff and office fabric and equipment; to organise facilities for meetings and the preparation of minutes to prepare statistical information to be Administrator of the I.A. Trade Association. Proven ability in book-keeping and administration essential. Overseas foreign travel will be necessary. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Write (marked "PERSONAL") for further information or to submit an application to:

Director General,
International Association of Fish Meal Manufacturers,
Hoval House,
Mutton Lane, Potters Bar,
Herts EN6 3AR U.K.

Knight Frank & Rutley

20 Hanover Square 01-629 8171

As part of an expansion plan, the Country Division of the firm is looking for candidates to fill the following post:-

London Office

1. Chartered Surveyor to deal with residential building land, leisure development and country properties. Minimum 2 years post qualification experience.

2. Negotiator/Surveyor for the Country House and Farms Departments. Preferably qualified.

Sherborne Office

Assistant in the Country House Agency Department. Qualification useful but not essential.

All enquiries in confidence to J. E. M. Inge FRICS, Tel: 01-629 8171

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Salaries are negotiable depending on experience and will be supported by the usual company benefits. If you have good experience in the areas mentioned above please write, with a comprehensive curriculum vitae, to:

M. C. Goodman,
SEAFLOW PELL FRISCHMANN LIMITED,
47 Nottingham Place,
London W1A 1AL

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We are a young, medium sized firm of Stockbrokers with offices in London, Glasgow and Bristol. The head of our London Private Client Department requires a numerate and literate person to join his expanding team. The successful candidate must be able to take on a high level of responsibility and will ideally be a graduate. A period of internal training will be a pre-requisite although for applicants with previous experience this will be primarily to acquaint them with our internal systems and procedures. Please write with C.V. to:

N. F. Andrews
GREIG, MIDDLETON & CO.
78 Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JE

All replies will be treated in confidence.

Young Brokers

A division of a Financial Services Group based in the City of London are building a team of young service and marketing executives to develop its private client and institutional business in the field of financial instruments.

Applications in writing are invited from confident, well-educated young persons aged 20-25. Candidates must have a high standard of numeracy and literacy, command of a second language would be an advantage.

No previous experience of working in financial markets is necessary, as a full training programme will be provided. Remuneration is linked to results and will be very high for the right person.

Please reply in writing to:

The Secretary,
The London Investment Trust plc,
Audley House,
9 North Audley St, London, W1

POOREST COUNTRIES

The World Development Movement, Britain's principal pressure group on Third World issues is looking for someone for a new post researching the changes needed in Britain's relationships with the poorest developing countries. The job will also include working with others to get these changes implemented. The post is for a two year fixed-term contract, salary will be on the scale £7,022 to £8,985. Full details, a job description and an application form, returnable by January 20th are available from W.D.M. Bedford Chambers, Covent Garden, London WC2E 6HA. 01-436 3872.

SECTION MANAGER PAPER CHEMICALS

A vacancy has arisen for a Section Manager, Paper Chemicals, in the newly-established European Central Laboratory of a successful multinational corporation operating in the area of Service Chemicals. The principal responsibilities entail the direction of a small section, the aim of which is to develop new products and modify existing ones in the field of paper chemicals and then, in conjunction with Sales and Marketing personnel, to play a major role in the successful exploitation of these products throughout Europe.

The successful candidate, in the age bracket 30-35 years, will be able to point to no less than six years' direct experience of the paper industry throughout Europe, and in Scandinavia particularly; to show evidence of the successful development of a product from the laboratory stage through to its commercial exploitation; to have had management experience in the field of either basic or applied research.

Applicants need a minimum of good Honours degree (First, or 2.1) in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering, but those with a Masters Degree or Doctorate will be preferred. Since the position carries with it responsibility for the control of development programmes requiring the co-operation of major paper manufacturers, principally in Scandinavia and Germany, it is necessary, in addition to being proficient in English, to be fluent in German and at least one Scandinavian language. The position is located in North West England and carries with it a salary of £12,500.

Interested candidates, male or female, should apply in writing, enclosing a brief C.V. to the Company's Advisors, Mercuri Urval Limited, Six Acre House, Town Square, Sale, Cheshire M33 1XZ, quoting reference 573.

Mercuri Urval

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Are you bright, energetic, dedicated and determined to work for the best magazine in Britain? Are you hot on pop, films, television and sport? Can you type, do your share of routine jobs and never panic no matter what - or how much - you're asked to do? Are you confident enough to telephone anyone, anywhere in the world? Are you in your early 20s? Yes? Then write now to Bridget Rowe, Editor, SUNDAY Magazine, 18 Ogle Street, London W1P 7LE.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY Self principal financial researcher for short term project assessing a part of health care service in 13 pay states. London base. Reply to: Box 65126, S.A.C. 181, Wootton's Way Alden, Hants GU14 5EAA.

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12 (Fri. 10:30 a.m.) and 13 (Sat. 10:30 a.m.)
14 (Sun. 10:30 a.m.) and 15 (Mon. 10:30 a.m.)
16 (Tue. 10:30 a.m.) and 17 (Wed. 10:30 a.m.)
18 (Thurs. 10:30 a.m.) and 19 (Fri. 10:30 a.m.)
20 (Sat. 10:30 a.m.) and 21 (Sun. 10:30 a.m.)
22 (Mon. 10:30 a.m.) and 23 (Tue. 10:30 a.m.)
24 (Wed. 10:30 a.m.) and 25 (Thurs. 10:30 a.m.)
26 (Fri. 10:30 a.m.) and 27 (Sat. 10:30 a.m.)
28 (Sun. 10:30 a.m.) and 29 (Mon. 10:30 a.m.)
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Ton'l & Wed at 7.30pm.
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9612B **THE VICTORIA WOOD** 1st & 2nd
9612C **THE VICTORIA WOOD** 1st & 2nd
9612D **THE VICTORIA WOOD** 1st & 2nd

Sat 13th to Mon
BENNY GREEN and His Friends
9613A **BENNY GREEN** and His Friends
9613B **BENNY GREEN** and His Friends
9613C **BENNY GREEN** and His Friends
9613D **BENNY GREEN** and His Friends

Mon 14th to Tue
THE ROYAL BALLET
9614A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9614B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9614C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9614D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Tue 15th to Wed
THE ROYAL BALLET
9615A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9615B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9615C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9615D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Wed 16th to Thu
THE ROYAL BALLET
9616A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9616B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9616C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9616D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Thu 17th to Fri
THE ROYAL BALLET
9617A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9617B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9617C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9617D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Fri 18th to Sat
THE ROYAL BALLET
9618A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9618B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9618C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9618D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Sat 19th to Sun
THE ROYAL BALLET
9619A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9619B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9619C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9619D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Sun 20th to Mon
THE ROYAL BALLET
9620A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9620B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9620C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9620D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Mon 21st to Tue
THE ROYAL BALLET
9621A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9621B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9621C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9621D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Tue 22nd to Wed
THE ROYAL BALLET
9622A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9622B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9622C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9622D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Wed 23rd to Thu
THE ROYAL BALLET
9623A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9623B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9623C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9623D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Thu 24th to Fri
THE ROYAL BALLET
9624A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9624B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9624C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9624D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Fri 25th to Sat
THE ROYAL BALLET
9625A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9625B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9625C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9625D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Sat 26th to Sun
THE ROYAL BALLET
9626A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9626B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9626C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9626D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Sun 27th to Mon
THE ROYAL BALLET
9627A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9627B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9627C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9627D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Mon 28th to Tue
THE ROYAL BALLET
9628A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9628B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9628C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9628D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Tue 29th to Wed
THE ROYAL BALLET
9629A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9629B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9629C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9629D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Wed 30th to Thu
THE ROYAL BALLET
9630A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9630B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9630C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9630D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Thu 31st to Fri
THE ROYAL BALLET
9631A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9631B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9631C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9631D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Fri 1st to Sat
THE ROYAL BALLET
9632A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9632B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9632C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9632D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Sat 2nd to Sun
THE ROYAL BALLET
9633A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9633B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9633C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9633D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Sun 3rd to Mon
THE ROYAL BALLET
9634A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9634B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9634C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9634D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Mon 4th to Tue
THE ROYAL BALLET
9635A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9635B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9635C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9635D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Tue 5th to Wed
THE ROYAL BALLET
9636A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9636B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9636C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9636D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Wed 6th to Thu
THE ROYAL BALLET
9637A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9637B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9637C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9637D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Thu 7th to Fri
THE ROYAL BALLET
9638A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9638B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9638C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9638D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Fri 8th to Sat
THE ROYAL BALLET
9639A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9639B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9639C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9639D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Sat 9th to Sun
THE ROYAL BALLET
9640A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9640B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9640C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9640D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Sun 10th to Mon
THE ROYAL BALLET
9641A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9641B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9641C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9641D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Mon 11th to Tue
THE ROYAL BALLET
9642A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9642B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9642C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9642D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Tue 12th to Wed
THE ROYAL BALLET
9643A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9643B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9643C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9643D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Wed 13th to Thu
THE ROYAL BALLET
9644A **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9644B **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9644C **THE ROYAL BALLET**
9644D **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Thu 14th to Fri
THE ROYAL BALLET
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Schae:

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be addressed. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force because they are not in the labor force. This group is the largest group of people who are not in the labor force.

1. The first group of people who are not in the labor force are those who are not in the labor force because they are not in the labor force.

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ALDO
NAYRE
ALBERT
JEAN
CARLOS

Dennis
and
can
NAVY

CUL
CAY

THE

REC-1

LYRIC MA
FALLS
GUTHRIE
LITTLE

